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NEWS
WORTH
SHARING.

The battle for remembrance

Second World War to be brought to life via 'experience centre,' including veteran narration, on Halifax waterfront

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Kirwan murder trial coming to a close

Father of the accused the sole witness called by defence

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Seniors dead after fire in Quebec town

Thirty missing and extent of the injuries still unknown

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WICK TO LEAD CANADIANS

HAYLEY WICKENHEISER, OF THE OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM, TO CARRY OUR FLAG IN SOCHI

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CONVENTIONAL AND CENTRAL TO HALIFAX

Scott Ferguson, president and CEO of Trade Centre Limited, unveils the new Halifax Convention Centre logo at an event Thursday at the current World Trade and Convention Centre. Ferguson says they have 16 conferences already booked for the new facility. Story, page 3

JEFF HARPER/METRO

STEMing gender gaps

Education. Girls not engaging in math, science before high school, keeping them out of certain fields

The fact that so few women work in the male-dominated fields of science and math is more than just a research interest for Mount Saint Vincent University professor Karen Blotnicky — it's personal.

"I was the only girl in my Grade 12 physics class," said Blotnicky. "My teacher literally said, 'Girls aren't good at science.'"

"If we did an experiment that was messy he handed me the broom. My job was to clean the room."

Years later, Blotnicky and a team of researchers at MSVU want to address the causes of gender imbalance in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

ering and math, or STEM.

Focusing on junior high students across the Maritimes, they found girls who engaged in science-based activities were a up to five times more likely to consider a career involving science and math.

"If you're not engaging then you're not even going to consider it," said Tamara Franz-Odendaal, the study's lead researcher and a national chair for women in science and engineering.

One of the lessons, said Franz-Odendaal, is for students to make connections between school subjects and careers.

"They're not correlating that when I learn about DNA or about cells, how does that relate to a future career?" she said. "(But) you can make wonderful connections."

Involving girls in highly interactive activities such as science camps or science fairs greatly increases their probability of pursuing a science-based career, said Blotnicky.

Underrepresented

25%

Fewer than 25 per cent of women make up Canada's STEM workforce. Just under 49 per cent make up Canada's entire workforce.

"If everyone has a chance to participate in it, then it normalizes that behaviour," she said.

The group's research also holds promise for improving teacher development, said co-researcher Fred French, who works in MSVU's faculty of education.

"I'm really interested in ... what can we do with this information in terms of professional development and teacher readiness," said French.

The findings are the first phase of a five-year longitudinal study that will track the junior-high cohort through high school to study what impacts their involvement in the fields of science and math over time.

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On track. Ferguson says centre will meet business projections

The CEO of Trade Centre Limited says he's on track to meet business projections for the new convention centre.

Scott Ferguson told the provincial legislature's public accounts committee last June he expected to secure 20 per cent of the 142 national and international events projected for the first three years of business by the end of March 2014.

"It represents 15,000 (delegates) and we're at 12,025 delegates as of today and we'll reach our full 20 per cent by the end of March," Ferguson told reporters Thursday.

Outgoing Auditor General Jacques Lapointe questioned the business projections in a report suggesting the targets were overly aggressive.

Ferguson said Thursday the success of an as-yet-incomplete convention centre means the projections will be met.

"Of those 16 conferences, half of them are coming in 2016," he said. "So that represents 35 per cent of our business projections for national business already in the hopper for a convention centre that's not even built yet."

Economic and Rural Development Minister Michel Samson said discussions are underway between the province and HRM to create a joint, public body to manage the convention centre.

He would not say whether that excludes Trade Centre Limited as the permanent manager of the new convention centre.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



Members of the ScotianAires barbershop chorus entertain guests at a Halifax Convention Centre event on Thursday. They will be attending the Harmony Inc. conference in 2017, hosted at the new venue. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Business booms for new centre

Trade Centre Limited.
Officials unveil new
brand, announce events
with total of 12,000
delegates for 2016-18

The convention centre on Argyle Street hasn't been built yet, but it now has a new name.

Trade Centre Limited officials joined provincial and municipal officials Thursday to reveal the brand for the new facility, now officially known as the Halifax Convention Centre.

"The key about the event business is, you don't try to overcomplicate it with

elements of buildings and other activities in the brand itself," said Trade Centre CEO Scott Ferguson. "I think the Halifax Convention Centre and the icons we use represent connectivity and how we come together as a community, so I love the simplicity of it."

Ferguson also announced that 16 national and international conferences — hosting groups such as Canada's Venture Capital and Private Equity Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities — have been secured to take place once the convention centre opens in 2016.

Ferguson said the events will bring people, money

and rare opportunities to Nova Scotia.

"Picture 600 venture capitalists, directly managing over \$105 billion," he said. "Just think of the opportunity that this represents for local businesses and entrepreneurs to connect with the most influential investors in this entire country."

A representative of one of the major events set for 2018 said it was the new convention centre that tipped the scales in Halifax's favour.

David Golcalves of STEM States Incorporated said Halifax beat out cities in South Africa, India and Russia to host the 2018 STEM-fest — a two-week long

festival focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"The convention centre was a big draw card," he said. "On top of that, the warm nature of the people ... and the scientific strength of Dalhousie University and many other institutions, we naturally were drawn to what Halifax offered."

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Spinoffs

\$18M

The economic spinoffs expected from delegates at the 16 conferences booked for the new convention centre.

1 NEWS

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Centre drags naval history onto land, into the present

Battle of the Atlantic Place. Project promises to deliver unique way of experiencing history



HALEY
RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Murray Knowles still remembers the day when his ship was sunk off the coast of Iceland by a German submarine.

He spent the next 12 hours in a lifeboat until his group was rescued by a British destroyer and taken to land.

"You think of your family and you never know when you're going to be picked up," said Knowles, a 97-year-old navy veteran. "You see the ship approaching you, and it's a wonderful thing in the middle of the ocean."

Knowles and veterans like him could soon walk you through the fear, adrenaline and personal stories from the Battle of the Atlantic.

A full design for the proposed Battle of the Atlantic Place was unveiled Thursday, focused on bringing the stories of Canadians who fought in the Second World War encounter to life.

Project chair Ted Kelly said it's important that people understand what kind of heroic deeds helped shape this country "and hopefully be inspired by it."

"It's a momentous day for

Big reveal

"It's a momentous day for us."

Project chair Ted Kelly

us," Kelly said after the event at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

The Battle of the Atlantic was one of the longest battles of the war — and most important for Canada when the navy escorted many Allied trade ships across the ocean.

The building on the Halifax waterfront will not be a museum but an "experience centre." Visitors will be guided by the voice of a veteran as they go through multiple high-tech exhibit rooms showing daily life at sea, war

Projected price tag

\$205M

The centre is expected to cost between \$180 million and \$205 million.

strategies and a memorial room, said Matt Solari of BRC Imagination Arts.

Solari said visitors can experience a battle from the deck of a ship in a special-effects theatre.

The HMCS Sackville, the last of the corvettes used in the Second World War escort fleet, will be taken out of the water and installed in the glassed-in Convoy Hall for people to explore.

The building is planned to sit on a 4.5-acre space on the waterfront, but Kelly said it will be built on top of pilings over the water so no infilling is needed.

He said the centre is expected to cost between \$180 and \$205 million, which should be narrowed down once construction begins.

Architect Doug Hamming said the roof will be a large green space and that the steel



A man looks over a wall-sized rendering of the proposed Battle of the Atlantic Place at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Highlights

- Hall to honour veterans with statues, soundscape of roll call
- Audio guide from real veteran; learn whether he lived or died in the war
- Excerpts from letters between navy sailors and families back home
- Shows the impact of war on women in the workforce and follows Canada's transformation into an industrial power
- 4.5 acres
- Certified by LEED
- Restaurant

and glass building will rely on "Maritime craftsmanship."

The Battle of the Atlantic

Place is planned to open July 1, 2017 for Canada's 150th anniversary.



Guy Ouellet points out someone he met in a photo on display Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Blizzard hurts more than backs

Less than a day after a storm dumped about 25 centimetres of snow across HRM, slippery roads led to a slow morning commute and airlines spent Thursday playing catch-up to get flights back on track.

Peter Spurway, spokesman for the Halifax Stanfield International Airport, said Thursday was a "recovery day" after

blowing snow and high winds kept planes from arriving or taking off, leading to dozens of cancelled flights.

"Visibility was a significant issue," Spurway said of Wednesday's snowstorm.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages said the morning commute on Thursday was

"much slower than normal."

However, Bourdages said there were only six accidents by noon, with no serious injuries reported.

Environment Canada meteorologist Tracey Talbot said their official measurement at the airport was 24 centimetres of snow, but unofficial observations from residents

The white stuff

24 cm

The official snowfall measurement at the airport, according to Environment Canada

showed anywhere from 30 in Sambro.

"It varies, especially with

all the drifting that happens," Talbot said. "It's very hard to get some good, solid measurements."

The next weather system coming to HRM this weekend should be mostly rain with some southerly winds starting Saturday, said Environment Canada meteorologist Stephen Hatt. HALEY RYAN/METRO



A man on Thursday digs out his driveway after the blizzard in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Province's net debt second highest in Canada: Auditor

'Burden for future generations.'

Jacques Lapointe issues report one day before retirement

Nova Scotia's auditor general recited a familiar yet grim warning Thursday about the province's growing debt.

Jacques Lapointe called attention to the fact Nova Scotia's net debt per capita in 2012-13 ranked as the second highest in the country at \$14,832 for every man, woman and child in the province.

"This remains a considerable burden for future generations," Lapointe said after releasing his final report before he retires this month.

Only the residents of Newfoundland and Labrador carry

a heavier debt burden.

Lapointe said although the total net debt has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, it has increased by \$1.6 billion to \$13.9 billion.

The per capita debt has jumped by almost \$2,000 — an increase of 13 per cent in the past four years alone — even though the province's population has remained flat.

"It would be nice to at least stabilize it at some point so that we quit adding to that burden," said Lapointe, noting that the province's aging population isn't helping matters.

According to the 2011 census, Nova Scotia's population had the highest proportion of seniors in Canada at 16.6 per cent. And the province's median age was 43.7 years — tied with New Brunswick for second-oldest in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador

Get a grip

"To me, it's a call to action. It's time for the government to actually get a grip on our finances."

Opposition Leader Jamie Baillie

led the way at 44.

It's not the first time the soft-spoken auditor general has raised a red flag about debt. In January 2012, he released a report that asked whether it's fair for governments to spend more than they earn while leaving the tab for someone else.

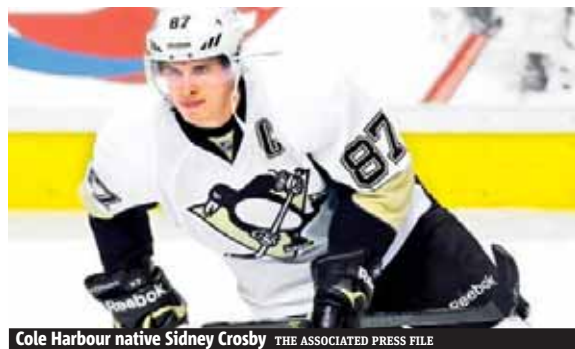
Premier Stephen McNeil said part of the higher debt is caused by spending on capital projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Auditor General Jacques Lapointe speaks to reporters. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Party leaders put politics aside to cheer on Crosby



Cole Harbour native Sidney Crosby THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

If there is anything in this country powerful enough to overcome the divides of partisan politics, it's hockey.

In an uncommon display of solidarity in the political arena, the leaders of Nova Scotia's three main political parties joined together on Thursday to congratulate Cole Harbour native Sidney Crosby on being named captain of the Canadian men's Olympic hockey team.

"This is another remarkable achievement from a re-

markable young man," said Premier Stephen McNeil in a press release.

His comments came four days after Canada's NHL wunderkind and captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins was selected to lead Team Canada at the Sochi Olympics.

Crosby played for Canada during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, scoring the famous game-winning goal in overtime against the United States that earned Canada the gold medal.

"(Sidney Crosby) is a role model on and off the ice, demonstrating hard work and determination, while constantly taking time to give back to his community and his sport," said Progressive Conservative leader Jamie Baillie.

"We are so proud and thrilled to know Sidney is leading the team that will defend Canada's title as the best hockey nation in the world," said Maureen MacDonald, interim leader of the Nova Sco-

Heading to Sochi

Sidney Crosby, along with snowboarder Alex Duckworth, are the two athletes from Nova Scotia competing in the Sochi games.

tia NDP.

The 2014 Winter Olympics are taking place Feb. 7 to 23 in Sochi, Russia.

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A sketch of Christopher Falconer during the trial this month at Pictou Supreme Court. CONTRIBUTED

Falconer's defence calls just one witness

Amber Kirwan.

Verdict should be handed down next week

Closing arguments will be heard Friday in the first-degree murder trial of Christopher Alexander Falconer, who is accused of killing Amber Kirwan.

The Crown closed its case early Thursday morning and defence lawyer Mike Taylor called one witness to the stand, Scott Falconer Jr.

Scott is the father of accused, who is charged in connection with the death of 19-year-old Kirwan who went missing from a downtown New Glasgow street on Oct. 9, 2011. Her remains were found in Heathbell off a logging road on Nov. 5, 2011.

Taylor told the jury he wanted Scott to testify to put con-

text to some of the statements made between him and his son during a phone call in November 2011. The audio tape was played as part of the Crown's evidence and was recorded on Nov. 16 and 17, 2011, while Christopher was remanded at the correctional institution in Burnside, N.S., on a parole violation.

Scott said his son had keys to his Heathbell Road home and came and went as he pleased. After he was arrested in early November, he called home frequently to speak to his father and stepmother Sue Kelly.

During one of the conversations on Nov. 16, 2011, Falconer told his father he was thinking of pleading guilty to take some of the stress off his parents and family.

"I told him you don't plead guilty to something you didn't do," Scott said. "He agreed basically that he would not



Amber Kirwan CONTRIBUTED

plead guilty and he would hang in there."

Crown attorney Bill Gorman asked if Christopher told his father during the conversation that he didn't murder Kirwan.

"At no time in that conversation did he say, 'Dad, I didn't do this,'" asked Gorman.

Scott responded by saying, "No, not at that time."

That was the only witness the defence called the stand so the evidence portion of the trial wrapped up and closing statements will be heard Friday.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Group attacked outside of Halifax library

A 20-year-old man from Dartmouth is facing charges of assault and robbery following an attack near Halifax's downtown library on Wednesday night.

Halifax police say a group of five men were walking on Spring Garden Road shortly before midnight when they were approached by six men who demanded their phones and wallets.

According to a police press release, the suspects then

At the scene

- The victims were treated on scene for minor injuries and released.

began punching and kicking three of the five men before fleeing on foot when a couple motorists stopped to help.

Police located and arrested four men fitting the suspects'

descriptions on the corner of Sackville and Granville streets.

One man was released without charges, while two others — a 19-year-old from Moser River and a 22-year-old from Moncton, N.B. — face unrelated charges of breaching court-imposed conditions of failing to keep the peace and refraining from drinking alcohol.

The Dartmouth man charged was due in court on Thursday. METRO

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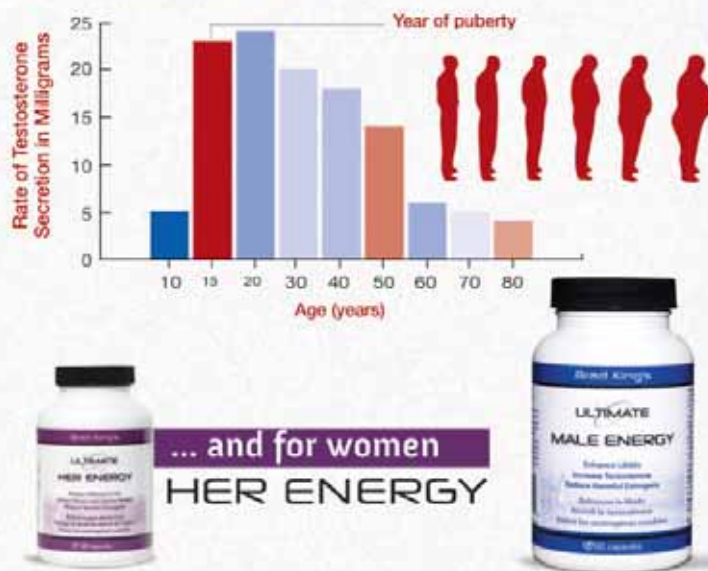
In fact, by the time men are 60 years old, they typically produce 60% less testosterone than they did at age 20 (a man's sexual peak). Many men over the age of 35 may already be feeling the effects of lower testosterone including:

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Needs. Police dog helps sniff out alleged robber

A 32-year-old Halifax man has been charged after a convenience store was broken into overnight.

Police say an intrusion alarm went off at the Needs convenience store at 70 Lacewood Dr. around 1:15 a.m.

When officers arrived, they learned two people had broken into the business and stole several things in the store.

A police K9 team was dispatched and it followed footprints in the snow to an

Still looking

- Police are still on the hunt for the second suspect.

apartment building on Dawn Street.

There, police arrested the 32-year-old man without incident.

The man was charged with break and enter. He was due in court Thursday **METRO**

Tool

Cops put a wrench in one man's plans

A man walking down a Dartmouth street carrying several large garbage bags was arrested after police say he was found with stolen tools.

Police were called at 12:20 p.m. Wednesday regarding a suspicious man carrying the garbage bags — when it wasn't waste collec-

tion day — on Bow Street.

When officers arrived on scene they found the man with several tools allegedly stolen from a nearby shed.

Police are also connecting the man to a theft from a Portland Street business on Jan. 21.

Robert Frank Jeffries of Dartmouth is facing charges of break and enter, theft under \$5,000 and possession of stolen goods under \$5,000. **METRO**

Crosswalk safety committee will meet for as long as it takes

Running out of time.

Group's report to come out next week; will cover education, enforcement, engineering



RUTH
DAVENPORT

ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

HRM's advisory committee on crosswalk safety is a week away from its self-imposed deadline for finalizing its first round of recommendations, and there's still a fair bit of fine-tuning to do.

The committee met Thursday to continue discussing more than a dozen recommen-

By the numbers

\$300K

Rough estimate of the total cost of the current round of crosswalk safety recommendations.



Cars stop for pedestrians at this Halifax crosswalk. **METRO FILE**

dations covering education, enforcement and traffic control measures as they pertain to crosswalk and pedestrian safety.

"We have a very diverse committee, and there are so many things we can do better," said committee chair Coun. Barry Dalrymple. "There's been very good dis-

cussion on everything."

Those recommendations include education and awareness campaigns, improved data collection on crosswalk incidents, and requests to have the province increase the non-monetary penalties for drivers involved in a crosswalk incident.

The committee is working

to have the recommendations ready to send to the city's Transportation Standing Committee in early February, in hopes that they'll be approved by council in time for inclusion in the 2014-15 budget.

However, the committee ran out of time Thursday before getting to recommendations in the areas of traffic control measures and standards, which address the physical design of crosswalks.

Dalrymple said those will be dealt with at next week's final meeting of the committee.

"We're going to meet as long as we need to that day to get the plan finalized," he said.

Once this set of recommendations is submitted, Dalrymple said the committee will continue to meet to address other possibilities and issues related to crosswalk safety.

"We'll watch and see what happens this year," he said. "We'll have more recommendations in a year from now."

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Efficiency Nova Scotia. Energy minister unhappy about power fee increase

Nova Scotia's energy minister says he's disappointed that people in the province will have to pay more to an energy conservation agency.

Andrew Younger says he hoped to halt the Efficiency Nova Scotia rate increase, which was approved by the Utility and Review Board and amounts to up to an additional \$8.7 million this year.

The increase will likely mean a \$1 fee will be added to a monthly charge of about \$4 on power bills to help fund programs offered by Efficiency Nova Scotia.

The Liberals were elected last year on a promise to bring down power costs and remove the \$4 fee.

But months into its mandate, the government has not touched the fee, with Younger saying that won't happen until next January.

Younger says the govern-



Andrew Younger METRO FILE

ment is developing a plan for the funding model that supports Efficiency Nova Scotia, but he wouldn't reveal details until legislation is announced this spring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial 1st. Springhill gets approval to proceed with geothermal program

Nova Scotia's first municipal geothermal program, which will use underground water as an energy source, has been granted final approval.

Natural Resources Minister Zach Churchill signed a lease to proceed with the project in Springhill.

Under the program, geothermal heat will be absorbed by mine water, which can be as much as 11 degrees Celsius higher than normal groundwater temperatures.

The water will be pumped

to the surface and its heat extracted for energy before that water is returned underground to be reheated naturally.

The Natural Resources Department says underground coal mine workings in the town are estimated to contain about 49 billion litres of water — the equivalent of about 19,600 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Churchill says the program will help provide clean and efficient energy to the town. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Flipper-dee-doo-dah, flipper-dee-eh!

An unexpected visitor was spotted mid-morning Thursday in Bible Hill. The seal was in the Salmon River and could be seen lifting its head, looking around at its surroundings, and moving on a section of ice. TRURO DAILY NEWS

N.S. denying basic info to former foster kids: Report

Change in policy. Community Services Department says it's reviewing findings of province's FOI officer

The Nova Scotia government is routinely ignoring its own laws by denying basic information to former foster children trying to learn about their family history, the province's freedom of information officer says.

Dulcie McCallum issued a report Thursday that says the Community Services Department is disregarding previous practice and the law through an incorrect interpretation of

the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

"Children who grew up in foster care in Nova Scotia deserve the same right to their life story as all other children," McCallum said in a statement. "Foster children are being treated as if they have no past — essentially a person without any life story prior to adulthood."

Her report says former foster children are not being told why they were removed from their biological family, where they came from, or if their family had a history of health issues, among other things.

Under a previous policy, the department granted former foster children access to their records. But the department

By the numbers

15

The number of days the Community Services Department has to respond to the report.

has moved away from this longstanding practice for reasons that contradict the intent of the province's freedom of information laws, McCallum said.

She said the law specifically states that it can't be used to restrict access to information that had been available before the act went into effect.

McCallum said if Community Services Minister Joanne Bernard doesn't follow her rec-

ommendations, the minister should at least ask the legislature to address the matter with new legislation similar to that drafted for adopted children.

The report says foster children who are adopted have access to their foster-care files under the Adoption Information Act. However, those who aren't adopted are required to file a formal request through access to information legislation.

"For the most vulnerable children, those apprehended and taken into foster care, one of the ways we can show respect to them is to give them information about their childhood," the report says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Fatal blaze ravages seniors' home in small Quebec town

L'Isle-Verte. Many residents were over 85, and all but a handful were confined to wheelchairs and walkers

Just six months after Canadians were rocked by the Lac-Mégantic tragedy, another Quebec town found itself waiting to learn how many people it had lost after fire ripped through a seniors' residence Thursday.

And just like in Lac-Mégantic, the destruction struck shortly after midnight.

The unsuspecting community this time was L'Isle-Verte, a town of only 1,500 people in Quebec's scenic Lower St. Lawrence.

Provincial police have confirmed that five people are dead and another 30 are missing.

Parts of the Résidence du

Havre, which opened in 1997, had sprinklers, while others didn't. The local fire chief said sprinklers did go off, triggering the fire alarm and allowing firefighters to gain access to about one-third of the building.

Thursday's blaze erupted in the old part of the three-storey building, which a Quebec Health Department document from last July states was constructed of wood. The document also says the building had a fire alarm and that each room was equipped with a smoke detector.

Many of the residents were over 85 and all but a handful had limited movement, being confined to wheelchairs and walkers.

Town official Ginette Caron said only five residents in the 52-unit centre were fully mobile.

At least three people were injured, although the extent of their injuries was unclear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Investigators and firefighters look over the rubble where fire destroyed a seniors' residence in L'Isle-Verte, Que., Thursday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Unconstitutional'

Virginia AG will no longer defend gay marriage ban

Virginia's attorney general has concluded that the state's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional and he will no longer defend it in federal lawsuits challenging it, his office said Thursday.

In an email to The Associated Press, Michael Kelly, a spokesman for Attorney General Mark Herring, said the state will instead side with the plaintiffs who are seeking to have the ban struck down.

Herring planned to file a brief Thursday morning with the federal court in Norfolk, where one of the lawsuits is being heard, notifying the court of the state's change in position in the case, Kelly said.

The attorney general decided the ban was unconstitutional after a thorough legal review of the matter, Kelly said.

Virginia has emerged as a critical state in the nationwide fight for gay marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No sign of stopping

Opportunity rover logs 39 kilometres since landing

The rover Opportunity may not be sleek like a brand new car, but it shows no signs of braking even after a decade on Mars.

Scientists and engineers gathered at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Thursday to celebrate the plucky rover, which has logged 39 kilometres since landing.

Opportunity has been exploring the rim of Endeavour Crater, its fifth crater destination. A new study of rocks examined by Opportunity and published in the journal Science found they're the oldest yet — about 4 billion years old. The rocks interacted with water during a time when environmental conditions were favourable for microbes.

Opportunity outlasted its twin Spirit, which stopped communicating in 2010 after getting stuck in sand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Adler

MP says comment at Western Wall was 'a joke'

Toronto-area MP Mark Adler says he was just joking when he made a crass comment as Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Adler, situated behind barricades at the sacred site earlier this week, pleaded with one of Harper's aides to let him into the main event.

"It's the re-election! This is the million-dollar shot!" Adler said.

The MP for York Centre scoffed at reporters on Wednesday when he was asked about the comments in Tel Aviv, where Harper was bestowed with an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University.

"You guys don't get a joke, huh? It was all said tongue-in-cheek," Adler said.

The Prime Minister's Office denied Adler was in the doghouse for his remark. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indian woman says village council ordered gang-rape

A 20-year-old Indian woman said she was gang-raped on the orders of a village council because she fell in love with a man from a different ethnic group, police said Thursday.

Twelve suspects and the head of the council have been arrested for the Monday night attack, police said. The woman told police that she lost count of how many men raped her. She was hospitalized Thursday in serious condition.

Television footage showed the woman, her face covered by scarves, being led into a hospital with an IV tube in her arm.

TV news reports said the woman is a member of an ethnic tribal group and the man is a Muslim from a neighbouring village. The man visited the woman's village, Subalpur, on Monday to propose marriage, but was caught by other villagers, and the man and woman were tied to a tree while the village council decided their fate, the reports said.

Police official C. Sudhakar



Men arrested in a gang-rape are produced at a court in Bolpur, India, Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

over chronic sexual violence and government failures to protect women.

The West Bengal case is particularly troubling because it was allegedly ordered by a council made up of village elders. Such councils are not legally binding in India, but they are seen as the will of the local community. The councils decide on social norms in the village, and in some cases they dictate the way women can dress or whom they can marry. Those who flout the councils risk being ostracized.

Subalpur is about 180 kilometres north of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal.

Annie Raja, general secretary of the National Federation of Indian Women, said that such local councils destroy women's rights.

"They are dead set against giving basic human rights to women," she said. "These are non-constitutional bodies and the West Bengal government should take stringent action against them."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

said the village council ordered the man and woman to each pay a fine of 25,000 rupees (\$450). The man's family was able to pay, but when the woman's family said they were too poor, the council ordered the gang-rape, police said.

A rash of high-profile rapes in India over the past year has sparked widespread outrage

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Justin Bieber arrested in Miami, charged with DUI

Hard to Believe. A bratty teen pop star, alcohol, drugs, a yellow Lamborghini — what could go wrong?

So what could happen?

For a first DUI offence, there is no minimum sentence and a maximum of six months, a fine of up to \$500, and 50 hours of community service.

When he debuted five years ago, Justin Bieber was a mop-haired heartthrob, clean cut and charming. But a series of troubling incidents have put his innocent image at risk, and none more so than his arrest on DUI charges Thursday.

Police say they arrested a bleary-eyed Bieber — smelling of alcohol — after officers saw him drag-racing before dawn on a residential street, his yellow Lamborghini travelling at nearly twice the speed limit.

The 19-year-old singer later admitted smoking marijuana, drinking and taking a prescription medication, police say. Unlike previous dustups, this arrest has him facing potential

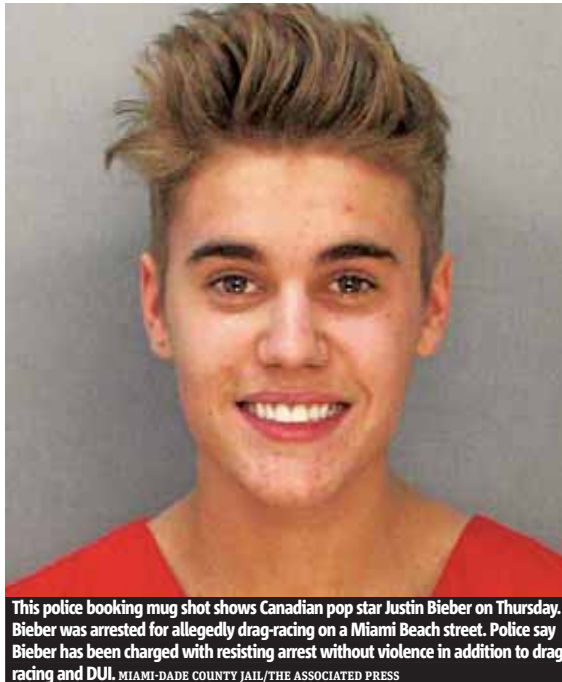
jail time.

Bieber was charged with DUI, driving with an expired licence and resisting arrest without violence. His Miami-Dade County jail mug shot showed the singer smiling in a bright red inmate jumpsuit, his hair still stylishly coiffed.

Bieber made his initial court appearance via a video link from jail. Bieber's bond was set at \$2,500.

Bieber left jail about an hour after his court appearance, popping through a window of his black SUV in a black hoodie and sunglasses to wave to crowds of reporters and young girls waiting to see him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This police booking mug shot shows Canadian pop star Justin Bieber on Thursday. Bieber was arrested for allegedly drag-racing on a Miami Beach street. Police say Bieber has been charged with resisting arrest without violence in addition to drag racing and DUI. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY JAIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going down? Diners bored while waiting on Ford, who was stuck between floors

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford arrived more than an hour late for a lunch-hour speech to the Economic Club of Canada today, saying he had been stuck in an elevator for 45 minutes.

The president and CEO of the club said she was trapped in the same elevator with Ford. Rhiannon Traill said the group took a freight elevator to "avoid all the traffic" in the lobby.

Ford was "so calm and gracious" during the ordeal, Traill said, noting they discussed his speech and his campaign for re-election.

"Unfortunately, we were stuck in between floors so they couldn't get us out for a while," she said.

Despite their best efforts, the group wasn't able to alert event organizers of the reason for the delay, Traill said.

The mayor himself would not elaborate on what happened.

Several members of the business crowd left before Ford's arrival, with one saying he had too much work to do and couldn't wait any longer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta. Supreme Court won't hear appeal of man who hoped to save rabbits

The Supreme Court of Canada won't hear an appeal from a nature lover who tried to save the rabbits of Canmore, Alta., from a deadly cull.

The town decided several years ago to trap and kill its feral rabbits, which it said were devouring local gardens and attracting coyotes and cougars.

Daniel Onischuk, an Edmonton photographer, objected and went to court for an injunction,

arguing trapping, sterilizing and relocating the rabbits was a better option.

The Court of Queen's Bench dismissed his suit, saying he had no standing to bring the application since he had no ties or interest in Canmore and the appeal court declined to hear an appeal.

The town began the trap-and-kill program in the fall of 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds push new Jobs Grant package

The federal government has offered the provinces and territories a new Canada Jobs Grant package as part of a "sensitive" third round of negotiations over the controversial proposal, says Employment Minister Jason Kenney.

The original proposal, which came shortly after the last federal budget was introduced, was less than perfect, Kenney acknowledged Thursday as he described a new offer that offers additional "flexibility" to the provinces.

"I'm not suggesting the in-

ital model that we proposed was ideal; to the contrary," the minister said in a speech to the Toronto Region Board of Trade.

At the same time, however, he expressed frustration with the fact other levels of government have been balking at something that he considers to be a common sense plan.

"It's so blindingly sensible, I don't understand why it's not widely accepted."

The main idea behind the job grant scheme remains intact as the talks enter the latest phase, Kenney said: giving

those who create jobs more say over how tax dollars are spent on training programs.

The Canada Jobs Grant model, first proposed by the Harper government in last year's federal budget, was supposed to be in place by April, but several provinces objected because it would have meant an overall cut to federal funding for job training.

Ontario Training Minister Brad Duguid said earlier this week that he remains opposed to the fact that Ottawa intends to finance its share of the pro-

gram by reducing transfer payments to the provinces.

The original plan was to create a \$15,000 grant that Canadians could use to receive training for a specific job opening.

Kenney stressed that Canada is already short of skilled workers, and the pending retirement of thousands more across the country as the baby boomers retire will only make matters worse unless the right job training programs are in place.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Belgium

Dine-and-dasher discovered done-in

Authorities are investigating the death of a gastronomic freeloader as a possible murder. Two days after the father of Titus Clarysse found him dead in his apartment, investigators

were looking on Thursday for suspects in what a spokesperson called "a case of murder or manslaughter." Clarysse was famed in and around the town of Ghent for walking into any restaurant of his choosing, ordering anything from steak to lobsters and walking out without paying.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Egypt

Canadian journalist may go on trial

An Egyptian-Canadian journalist being held in a notorious Cairo prison is no longer being investigated for links to a terrorist group but could nonetheless be put on trial, his family said Thursday.

After nearly a month behind bars without being charged, Mohamed Fahmy continues to be interrogated

on suspicion of using illegal equipment, broadcasting false news and is even facing allegations of transmitting false information to CNN, his former employer.

"This is totally insane," Fahmy's brother Sherif said. "Passing false information is insanity and passing false information to his previous employer is more insanity."

Fahmy was working for Al Jazeera English when he and two co-workers were arrested Dec. 29. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Knife hidden in diapers

Mom allegedly kills son in hospital

A Swiss woman detained in Spain and taken to a hospital with her 10-month-old son allegedly cut the boy's throat with a hidden knife and killed him after receiving permission to give him a bath.

Katharina Katit-Staheli, 40, was taken into custody Wednesday with her son in Torrevieja on the Mediterran-

ean coast by police acting on an arrest warrant issued by Zurich authorities.

The mother allegedly took her child suffering from a brain abnormality without authorization from a specialist Swiss clinic.

Police said that the mother and child were taken to the Spanish hospital because the boy needed medical attention.

She later tried to kill herself but police prevented her from doing so.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Muslim men sleep inside the St. Pierre church where they and hundreds of Muslims sought refuge in Boali, Central African Republic, Thursday. Clashes erupted as thousands of Muslims tried to flee looting of their neighbourhoods on the day of the inauguration of the interim president. **JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

CAR leader sworn in amid looting, death threats

Risk of genocide.

Tensions flared when hundreds of Christians looted, set fire to Muslim homes and businesses and threatened to go on a killing spree

putting down their weapons," she said. "The ongoing disorder ... will no longer be tolerated."

UN officials have warned that the crisis is at high risk of escalating into a genocide in the country with a history of coups and dictatorship.

Christian Bernis Latakpi, 24, a university student, said he hoped that Samba-Panza, would bring much-needed reconciliation after months of bloodshed. "Since independence, men have always run the country and they have failed at the job," he said. "We're looking to her to quickly bring security and to reunite our Muslim and Christian brothers. Because the Muslim Central Africans — they were born here, grew up here and we can't disown them."

Central African Republic has been wracked by sectarian violence for months, with more than 1,000 people killed in Bangui over the course of several days in December alone. Nearly 1 million people have fled their homes, with 100,000 of them living in and around the Bangui airport being guarded by French soldiers.

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Goodfellas, the sequel: Mobster arrested

Crime doesn't pay. Snitch told FBI robbers didn't get their share of 1978 heist loot, court papers show

An elderly reputed mobster was arrested at his New York City home on Thursday and charged with a 1969 murder

and the \$6-million US 1978 airport robbery dramatized in the Martin Scorsese movie Goodfellas.

Vincent Asaro, 78, was named along with his son and three other defendants in wide-ranging indictment alleging murder, robbery, extortion, arson and other crimes from the late 1960s through last year. It accused Asaro of helping to direct

the Dec. 11, 1978, Lufthansa airlines heist at Kennedy airport — one of the largest cash thefts in American history.

Asaro and his son Jerome, both alleged captains in the Bonanno organized crime family, also were charged in a 1984 robbery of \$1.25-million US worth of gold salts from a Federal Express employee.

In addition to the heist, the elder Asaro was charged

in the 1969 murder of Paul Katz, whose remains were found last year during an FBI dig at a house once occupied by James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke. Burke, a late Lucchese crime family associate, planned the Lufthansa heist.

Burke inspired Robert De Niro's character in Goodfellas, which was based on Nicholas Pileggi's book Wiseguy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



FBI agents escort reputed mobster Vincent Asaro from their offices in Lower Manhattan, New York, Thursday. **NEWSDAY-CHARLES ECKERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NSA surveillance

Oversight panel says program is illegal, ineffective

The U.S. government's Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board warned Thursday that the National Security Agency's daily collection of Americans' phone records is illegal and ineffective and recommended that President Barack Obama abandon the program and destroy the phone records it has already collected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel

Palestinians dismiss al-Qaida plot claim

Palestinian security officials on Thursday cast doubt on Israel's claim that it broke up an al-Qaida plot to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, alleging Israel concocted the story to bolster its position in peace talks.

Israel's Shin Bet security agency says it arrested three Palestinian men over the plot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Another male bastion falls

The pure, high voices of the choir have soared toward the vaulted ceiling of England's Canterbury Cathedral for more than 1,000 years. This Saturday, just one thing will be different — the young choristers in their purple cassocks, pictured above, will be girls, ending centuries of all-male tradition at the mother church of the 80 million-strong Anglican Communion. **ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Ukraine opposition urges ceasefire, but protesters still appear defiant

Uneasy truce.

Leaders offer mixed reports of negotiations with president

A top opposition leader on Thursday urged protesters to maintain a shaky ceasefire with police after at least two demonstrators were killed in clashes this week, but some in the crowd appeared defiant, jeering and chanting "revolution" and "shame."

Emerging from hours-long talks with President Viktor Yanukovich, opposition leader Oleh Tyahnybok asked demonstrators in Kyiv for several more days of a truce, saying the president has agreed to ensure the release of dozens of detained protesters and stop further detentions.

But other opposition leaders offered mixed reports on the outcome of the meeting,



Opposition leader and former WBC heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, centre, addresses protesters near the burning barricades between police and protesters in central Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

with opposition leader Vitali Klitschko saying negotiations had brought little result.

He and Tyahnybok were booed at the barricades by angry demonstrators and the

atmosphere appeared tense.

Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko issued a statement guaranteeing that police would not take action against the large protest camp on In-

dependence Square, known as the Maidan. He also called on the police to exercise calm and not react to provocations.

The developments came as hundreds of enraged protesters

in several regions in western Ukraine, where Yanukovich has little support, seized government offices and forced one governor loyal to Yanukovich to resign. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Protests

Rejecting Russian aid

The protests began after Yanukovich turned away from closer ties with the European Union in favour of getting a bailout loan from Russia. They turned violent this week after he pushed through harsh anti-protest laws, rejecting protesters' demands that he resign and call new elections. At least two people were killed by gunfire at the clash site on Wednesday. Demonstrators had pelted riot police with stones and set police buses on fire, while the officers responded with rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iranian president gets spotlight at Davos forum



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani listens to welcome remarks during a session of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Thursday. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a charm offensive to the global political and business elite, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani set lofty ambitions for his country, including becoming one of the world's top 10 economies.

The first Iranian leader in a decade to visit the World Economic Forum, Rouhani took top billing Thursday, drawing crowds to hear a speech in which he promised greater engagement with the world.

Touting potential investment opportunities of the

oil-rich land to the business tycoons in the audience, Rouhani said his country could, with the gradual easing of sanctions, enjoy an economic boom.

And Tehran, he said, is committed to honouring a deal to curb its nuclear program in the hope that will lead to a permanent lifting of economic sanctions, which have battered the Iranian economy over recent years.

"I see the status of Iran pursuing policies of modera-

tion, prudence and hope in the future global economy," said Rouhani. "Iran's economy has so far the potential to be among the world's top 10 in the next three decades."

For 2012, the International Monetary Fund judged Iran to be the 21st biggest economy in the world in terms of annual economic income, or nominal gross domestic product. To get into the top 10 it would have to leapfrog the likes of Switzerland, Turkey and Spain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Economic sanctions

- Iran has huge riches at its disposal, particularly oil and gas, the workforce is skilled and the country has untapped potential for tourism.
- But the country has largely been cut off from international business since the Iranian Revolution in 1979.



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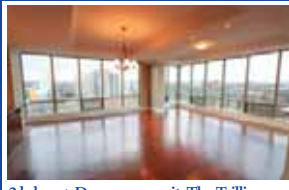
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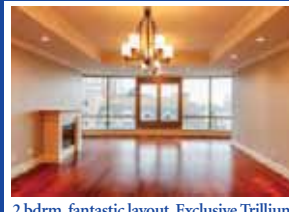
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Student Union Building (E100) # 303
at 7h30 pm

Is your go-to password 123456?

Then it's time to up your game. Research shows most online passwords are too easy

Stop doing this!

SplashData found 9.8% of users have the passwords 123456 or 12345678.

STEVE SMITH
Metro World News

Passwords are a nightmare to remember, but even so, we are incredibly bad at them. Research from password management company SplashData has discovered the majority of people undermine their security with easily guessed codes, and company CEO Morgan Slain highlights these failures.

Are we changing our habits at all?

The main trends are that short numerical passwords are continuing to show up, even though more sites are requiring stronger alphanumeric passwords. Passwords like "adobe123" and "photoshop" showing up from the Adobe security breach last year highlight the risks of basing a pass-

word on the app or website you are logging into.

Everything needs a password these days, but how are we to remember them all?

The simplest answer here really is to use a password manager like SplashID Safe. Otherwise, it's difficult or impossible to remember dozens of unique, strong passwords. One way to create more secure passwords that are easy to recall is to start using phrases, short words with spaces or other characters separating them. It's best to use random words rather than common phrases. For example, "cakes years birthday" or "smiles_light_skip?"



Is caramel colouring safe? FDA to find out

Coke and Diet Coke bottles sit on a store shelf in Miami. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says there's no reason to believe that the colouring added to sodas is unsafe. But the agency is taking another look just to make sure. The agency's announcement comes in response to a study by Consumer Reports showing 12 brands of soda have varying levels of 4-methylimidazole, an impurity found in some caramel colouring. GETTY IMAGES

Letter. Ban fur in Israel as it 'violates Jewish principles,' argues ex-Baywatch babe

Actress and animal rights activist Pamela Anderson is asking Israel's prime minister to endorse a bill banning the sale of clothes made of animal fur.

Fresh off a honeymoon in Israel, Anderson sent a letter to Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday urging him to support the legislation. If passed, it would make Israel the first country in the world to impose a national fur clothing ban.

More than 40 lawmakers



Pamela Anderson
GETTY IMAGES

have endorsed the bill, promoted by the Israel-based International Anti-Fur Coalition. Netanyahu previously has expressed views sympathetic with the animal rights movement. In her letter, Anderson said the way animals "suffer and die for fur violates Jewish principles." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.10¢
(-0.09¢)

TSX
13,932.97 (-55.23)

OIL
\$97.32 US (+\$0.59)

GOLD
\$1,262.30 US (+\$23.70)

Natural gas: \$4.83 US (+\$0.13)
Dow Jones: 16,197.35 (-175.99)

HAVE TO BE BUZZED TO BELIEB

Firmly settled into the new year, with the brisk winter upon us, we watch our resolutions crumbling by the hour. There remains a buzz, no longer of holiday cheer or annoying relatives, but of social media exploding with up-to-the minute news that matters most. Here are some of the items trending highest in this week's Twittersphere.

1 The puppy that lost its way. This week's top hashtags were #JustinBieber and #DUI. People forget that this is just a normal 19-year-old boy, experimenting with drugs, sex and cars. Is it his fault he just happens to have access to the very finest of all three? But he'll be OK, because just like an adorable little puppy, he can poop right on your shoes, and look at you innocently, as if to say, "Wanna rub my belly?" #WeWillAlwaysSupportYouJustin.

2 Dennis Rodman. The surest way for a celebrity (and I use the term loosely here) to trend high is to check into rehab. But this former NBA bad boy was already under fire for his relationship with Kim Jong-un, and compounded it by going nuts in a



THE METRO LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

satellite interview (from North Korea) with CNN anchor Chris Cuomo. Nothing gets folks a-tweetin' like a rant so incoherent, it's incomprehensible to two cultures simultaneously. What's the Korean word for "huh?"

3 Hilton-grooven. Her audacious claim that she was "one of the top 5 DJs in the world" ignited online controversy until Paris Hilton explained that she was merely one of the top five "HIGHEST PAID DJs..." What followed was a global DJ community left in a silent state of melancholy introspection.

4 Really, Rob? Toronto's mayor revived his dwindling buzz with footage of yet another drunken jabberfest earlier this week. Reporters were unable to focus on budget-related questions after seeing him rant in faux-Patois at the Steak Queen restaurant. So much for getting "enough to eat at home."

5 Greatest game ever, dude. The Super Bowl always ranks high in online chatter, but this year features Seattle versus Denver, and takes place in New Jersey, where constituents just re-elected Gov. Chris Christie. So it's hard to gauge whether trend-

ing is due to the NFL's huge fan base, or the fact that everyone is stoned. One thing's for sure: Announcers will have to speak very slowly.

6 Tennis, anyone? Eugenie Bouchard became the first Canadian to advance this far in the Australian Open, but apparently that's not as interesting as her crush on Justin Bieber, according to the latest Twitter trend #GenieArmy.

7 In the wrong business. Not on the list just yet, but on the topic of trends, iconic Canadian men's fashion chain Harry Rosen celebrates its 60th anniversary this coming month. I take a moment to reflect back on the memory of all of the contemporary brand-name fashions I was never able to afford, and still can't.

8 Time well spent. This week's highest-ranking online subject went to Oxfam's report that the world's 85 richest people have as much wealth as half of Earth's population. What they don't tell you is that it's because the bottom half spends the majority of their time tweeting and posting selfies on Instagram. The other 85 are shopping at Harry Rosen as we speak.



Follow The Metro List on
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ZOOM

Hero-glyphics are a Marvel to behold



TV icons star in ancient artwork

An artist has transported superheroes into a world of sacred myths, by drawing them in hieroglyphics. In his series Hero-glyphics, Josh Lane blends our favourite TV and comic-book characters — from Star Trek and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to X-Men (not pictured) — with the ancient Egyptian art form. **METRO**



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Q and A

Accidental genius



JOSH LANE
Graphic designer and
illustrator, 27, from
Kansas City, Mo.

What was the inspiration for the superheroes?

I tend to read very fast, which is usually a curse, but one time I read the word "hieroglyphics" as "hero-glyphics." Immediately I started daydreaming about the possible hero scenarios and combinations.

In a world where the

Egyptian gods could fight Marvel superheroes, who would win? Osiris and Anubis, or the X-Men?

The X-Men for sure, because they are a team. I could see the Egyptian gods fighting each other for power, leaving an opportunity for the X-Men to strike.

Clickbait

Deciding where you want to eat can be tough, even before those pesky hunger pangs kick in. So if you want to find a restaurant quickly, and also give the impression you are a gastronomical crackerjack, check out these apps.



GETTY IMAGES

Foodspotting:

This app knows that you eat with your eyes first. It lets you view photos of various dishes arranged by best, latest and nearest to you that have been uploaded by other patrons. Once you've found a drool-worthy dish, you can access the restaurant's info.

Open Table:

You can take advantage of your co-ordinates to find a restaurant and reserve a table. There are other auxiliary features such as searching restaurants by name, the interactive map, and you can also access restaurant info via a link to the site.

Vegout:

It lets you find vegetarian/vegan/vegetarian-friendly restaurants based on your location. The only drawback is it doesn't allow you to type in a specific restaurant.



Twitter

@metropicks asked: A stall with 2 toilets at a Sochi stadium has left many flushed. What is the strangest toilet set-up you have seen?

@nicolemartelle: 2 toilets in one stall (the stall connecting wall was torn down) in high school. fixed it after 2 days

@kokoskag: I have seen the double toilet set up in NFLD. Didn't look as nice as this though!

@strangerob: 3 seat thunderbox on several ftx, or possibly the latrine in Ft Lewis that had something like 6 toilets in a row.

@Dweller15: it's not new and not funny, take a look internet full of that crap

@beccawhite1984: that would be great if you have kids. They usually have to go at the same time.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Synopsis

I, Frankenstein, Aaron Eckhart's martial arts update of the famous Mary Shelley story, wasn't screened for the press in time to meet our deadline, so after a long conversation with our editor the Reel Guys have decided to do a column on Eckhart's oeuvre. At least that's how we see it. Our boss has a different idea. "As your editor I demand a thorough dissection of Eckhart's abs," she wrote before adding: "More than pretty, Eckhart is." What follows is our humble attempt to mix cinematic business with our editor's pleasure.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Aaron Eckhart in a scene from I, Frankenstein. Metro's movies editor digs Eckhart's physique, but the Reel Guys say there's more to him than abs and cleft. CONTRIBUTED

Why we love Aaron Eckhart

A-lister. He's got the acting chops ... and that cleft. So why isn't he a household name?

Richard: Mark, Aaron Eckhart isn't exactly a household name, but he has appeared in some very big movies. He's the only live-action actor in the Batman films to play both Harvey Dent and his villainous alter-ego Two-Face. The Dark Knight is by far and away his biggest hit, followed by his star-making turn in Erin Brockovich. But despite those box office busters we don't talk about the handsome actor in the same breath as A-listers like Cruise, DiCaprio or Smith. He has the above-mentioned abs and is versatile enough to star in everything from video game action movies like Battle: Los Angeles to

hardcore dramas like Rabbit Hole and yet doesn't get the same recognition as many of his peers. What's your take on him?

Mark: You mean the cleft that walked like a man? I could probably fit my grad thesis in there! Eckhart exploded onto my radar with two films he did in the late '90s, both by the cynical playwright Neil LaBute: In the Company of Men, and Your Friends & Neighbors. In both films he plays despicable, almost un-watchably misogynistic men. The key word here is almost. As rotten as he behaves in these movies, there's an inchoate grace under the surface that redeems the characters, and it's a testimony to his acting skills that he can keep us watching. And that cleft.

RC: Some like the cleft, some the abs. I like his versatility. In

a year span between 2010 and '11 he released three very different movies. In Rabbit Hole, he and Nicole Kidman were a couple trying to deal with the death of their four-year-old son. They are at different stages of their grief, but they share a couple of things: a terrible sense of loss and an inability to know how to deal with it. Terrific stuff. Next was the alien invader movie Battle: Los Angeles followed by The Rum Diaries where he played a slick PR person. Three different movies and three very different performances. Maybe we have a hard time defining him because he constantly does wild career flip-flops.

MB: Or because there's an opacity to him that allows him to play so many compromised characters, allowing us to project our feelings onto him. Look at one of his finest roles, as the

tobacco lobbyist in Thank You for Smoking. He's so slick, so shifty, we don't judge him, precisely because we don't really know him. A quality that's great for an actor, but less so for a movie star. I really liked him in Rabbit Hole and Rum Diaries, too, but his mainstream work doesn't register with me as much. Except for his cleft.

RC: He's made a number of movies I wouldn't recommend for the big screen but work well enough as rentals. Two action films, Erased and Suspect Zero, are very VOD friendly and feature many cleft hero shots.

MB: Or two romantic comedies that would have been disastrous without him: No Reservations and Love Happens. He doesn't do nude scenes in them, though, because in close-up you couldn't tell if it were his backside or his cleft.

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Classics get reeled into the digital era



Planet of the Apes is a must see at the Great Digital Film Festival. CONTRIBUTED

Great Digital Film Festival. Check out your favourite films in a fine new format

CHRIS
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With celluloid withering as the cinema-screening media of choice, the digital revolution is not only here to stay, it is — dare we say — superior to its sprocket-dependent predecessor. Purists be damned, with digital projection you don't get colour fades, melted frames, strip breaks or foreign hairs dancing in the corners of the screen.

If you want to watch your favourite movies and experience them in a state of rebirth, digit-

al is quite simply the way to go.

The iconic exhibitors at Cineplex have embraced this change, hence the latest instalment in their annual Great Digital Film Festival, returning Jan. 31 to Feb. 6 to select Cineplex screens across Canada. More than 20 celebrated classics of cinema, from superhero gems to cult oddities to action blowouts are unspooling (so to speak) this round and while all are solid draws, Metro has selected a handful of pictures that are essential HD viewing experiences.

Planet of the Apes (1968)

It doesn't get much better than this retro-future shock masterpiece, in which Charlton Heston plays an astronaut jettisoned back to the primal future where simians hold court and humans are livestock and worse. A brilliant nightmare

that spawned an entire subculture is exhibited here in a gorgeous, crisp transfer.

Brazil (1985)

Terry Gilliam's surrealist dystopian mind-bender has no peer, with kinetic visuals, wild-eyed performances (including a hilarious turn by Robert De Niro) and social commentary smashed into one mad, mad movie. A must-see.

Logan's Run (1976)

Join Michael York and Jenny Agutter as lovers on the run in a beautiful, abstract and distinctly '70s-centric future where the government allows each citizen 30 years of life before they are ritualistically executed. The film is a landscape of blown out whites and becomes an all-consuming environment on the big screen.

Batman (1989)



Michael Keaton as Batman. CONTRIBUTED

Tim Burton's original venture into Dark Knight territory has aged beautifully — Prince music notwithstanding — and balances camp, noir and psychodrama with aplomb. Stylish and eccentric, with rich blacks, blues and browns that are deftly drawn out in digital.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF FILMS, SCREENING TIMES AND PARTICIPATING THEATERS VISIT CINEPLEX.COM/EVENTS/DIGITALFILMFEST

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Actor brings complexity to Whitewash

Deep freeze. Thomas Haden Church takes a subtle turn to tackle character in new film



RICHARD
CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

It wasn't the wind and snow that Thomas Haden Church found "punishing" when shooting the new psychological thriller *Whitewash* in northern Quebec, but the lack of it.

"You know how it goes," he says. "You shoot one day and it's the perfect conditions and two days later it's 50 degrees (10 degrees Celsius) and

you have to figure out a way to make it match. We had blizzards and we had giant fans with cornstarch.

"When we started shooting there was a storm blowing in but as God would have it three hours later there's not a flake of snow floating through the air so they pull out the eight-foot fans and crank up the Corvette

engines that drive them and start hucking cornstarch at me.

"It is still cold as all get out, and with those fans blowing sometimes you wish the blizzard would come back and they'd turn the fans off. Those fans will fling stuff at you at sixty miles an hour. Those things are punishing to stand in front of."

The cornstarch plays a crucial role in the film's opening and defining scene. During a whiteout snowstorm — enhanced with the white, fluffy thickener for extra effect — Church's character Bruce takes a wild, drunken ride on a bulldozer that leaves a man dead.

Unnerved, he hides the body in a snow bank and lams it to the deep woods to avoid police and clear his head.

"When I read it a buddy of mine who works with me said, 'You know, sometimes you read 'em and you know what you know. You gotta go.' I knew as soon as I read *Whitewash* I had to go. The challenges, the character, the uniqueness of the setting, the emotional complexity of what he goes through. There is tragedy but I think by the end of the movie there is this affirmation that everybody landed on the mortal coil where they were supposed to be."

Church is in virtually every scene and delivers an extraordinary, minimalist

performance.

He doesn't appear to be doing much, but subtly rides the lines between sanity and insanity, between absurdity and logic, leaving the viewer off balance as the film veers between the present and flashbacks.

"Even as far back as working in television comedy as I did, I always wanted more nuance, more reflection, more moments of whatever the whisper line between comedy and drama is," he says.

"That really is defined by human circumstance and human behavior. Even when we were promoting this picture that I did called *Sideways*, we'd do these big Q&As and one time this guy said, 'It must be really interesting. In the dramatic scenes you make very dramatic choices and in the comedic scenes you make very comedic choices.' No man, maybe it sounds a bit elitist or pseudo-intellectual but I make human choices. I'm just trying to play a real guy."

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Thomas Haden Church stars in *Whitewash*. CONTRIBUTED

TOP SIX @ 6 Weeknights at 6 K8 counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

SIX @ 6

- 6 Katy Perry Ft Juicy J Dark Horse
- 5 Miley Cyrus Adore You
- 4 Passenger Let her Go
- 3 Eminem ft Rihanna The Monster
- 2 Pitbull ft Ke\$ha Timber
- 1 Beyonce XO

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 24 TO THURS., JAN. 30 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bayers Lake
190 Chain Lake Dr.
American Hustle (14) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Sun-Mon 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:55-7-10:05
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:35
August: Osage County (14) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:50-7:50-10:45 Sun-Mon 1:10-4:30-7:30-10:25 Tue 1:30-4:50-7:50-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:30-7:30-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 11
Devil's Due (14) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:45-9:25
Frozen (G) Fri 1:15 Sat 11:50-1:15 Sun-Thu 1:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sat 3:50-7 Sun 3:50-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-7
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 1:45-4:10-6:30-8:50 Sat 11:30-1:45-4:10-6:30-8:50 Sun-Thu 1:45-4:10-6:30-8:50
Her (14) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:40-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:50-8:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Sun-Mon 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Tue 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 2-4:30-7-9:40 Sat 11:20-2-4:30-7-9:40 Sun-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:40
I, Frankenstein: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri 1:30-4-6:25-8:40-10:50 Sat 11:10-1:30-4-6:25-8:40-10:50 Sun-Thu 1:30-4-6:25-8:40
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Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:45
The Smurfs (G) Sat 11
The Wolf of Wall Street (18) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:45-8:30
WWE Royal Rumble - 2014 (STC) Sun 9



Jack Ryan. CONTRIBUTED

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American Hustle (14) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Sun-Mon 12:50-3:55-7-10:05 Tue 1:10-4:15-7:20-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:55-7-10:05
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:35
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Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:45
The Wolf of Wall Street (18) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:45-8
WWE Royal Rumble - 2014 (STC) Sun 9
Oxford Theatre
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12 Years a Slave (14) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Park Lane
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Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Mon 4:20-7:15-10 Tue 4:20-7:20-9:40 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:15-10
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Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 6:20-8:55 Sat 1:20-3:50-6:20-8:55 Sun 1:20-3:50-6:20-8:50 Mon 6:20-8:50 Tue 6:20-8:55 Wed-Thu 6:20-8:50
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2014's television takeover

We're calling it. These are the actors destined for small screen stardom this year and the shows you won't be able to turn off. Get to know them.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO

Metro World News



Jonathan Groff

Where he's been: Remember Jesse St. James from *Glee*? He was the cocky (and cute!) lead of *Vocal Adrenaline*, *New Directions*' biggest singing rivals in Season 1. He pretended to like Rachel to get close to the group and take them down from the inside. He eventually ends up egging her in a parking lot. Not cool, bro.

Where he's going: Groff stars as one of the three male leads on HBO's *Looking* (premieres this Sunday), a new drama-comedy about a group of gay friends in San Francisco, à la *Girls* but, you know, with guys. He's still really cute.

David Walton

Where he's been: Walton starred as the rakish and incorrigibly irresponsible Vance on NBC's short-lived (but actually, rather well-done) 2010 sitcom, *Perfect Couples*. He stole the show. More recently, he had a recurring role on *New Girl* as Jess's goofy love interest, Dr. Sam.

Where he's going: They're making a television adaptation of Nick Hornby's 1998 novel *About a Boy*. It was also adapted into an awesome Hugh Grant movie in 2002. The story is the same: Walton will star as rakish and incorrigible (we're seeing a pattern here) bachelor and man-child Will Freeman, an independently wealthy and totally self-involved guy whose life is turned upside down when he meets a weird young boy and his kooky mother. *About a Boy* debuts on NBC, following the Olympics, on February 25.



Enlisted

Why: This buddy comedy about three military brat brothers — a star soldier, an authority-resistant slacker and an earnest but incompetent f-up — features a motley crew of characters quirky enough to keep storylines fresh. Plus, the slacker bro is played by Chris Lowell (of *Veronica Mars*) who recalls an early-days Jim Halpert and seems destined for bigger things.

When: Now! Premiered January 10 on Fox.

Greg Kinnear

Where he's been: OK, OK, you know where he's been. Kinnear is not exactly a fresh face, seeing as he's a big-ass movie star — *As Good as It Gets*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *You've Got Mail*, just to name a few — but he's never before starred on the small screen.

Where he's going: That's about to change, because Kinnear is set to star in Fox's new comedy *Rake*, as Keegan Deane, a self-destructive criminal defence lawyer whose career, personal life and finances are in the toilet. An adaptation of an Australian legal drama, *Rake* paints Deane in a less bleak light (apparently the original was pretty dark), probably because it's difficult not to be charmed by Kinnear.



Sasheer Zamata

Where she's been: A regular performer with *Upright Citizens Brigade*, the comedian has appeared in various sketches on fellow comedians' shows, including *Totally Biased with W.*, *Kamau Bell* and *Inside Amy Schumer*.

Where she's going: Zamata might not have face recognition now but she will very soon. The funny lady was just hired as the newest cast member on Saturday Night Live and the first black female cast member since biracial SNL alum Maya Rudolph left the show way back in 2007. It's about time. We have high hopes for Zamata, who, if the sketches we've watched are any indication, has the comedy chops to shake up a show that many feel has become tired and a bit rote.

The Spoils of Babylon

Why: Um, why not? This new spoof of "epic TV miniseries adaptations" has a cast so good, we'd watch them do just about anything. Stars include Kristen Wiig, Will Ferrell, Haley Joel Osment (he sees funny people!), Val Kilmer, Tim Robbins and many more.

When: Now! Premiered January 9 on IFC.



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Cult favourite: The Following

Q&A. Shawn Ashmore talks serial killers, sweaty palms and the appeal of horror TV

ALEXANDRA
CAVALLO

Metro World News in New York

The Following has so much more going for it than six degrees of star power (Kevin Bacon is the lead). The creepy-as-hell crime thriller about a serial killer and cult leader with legions of murderous devotees scares up all kinds of drama.

We spoke with Shawn Ashmore, who plays Bacon's fellow cop Mike Weston.

What drew you to this project? Are you really into horror movies?

I'm definitely a fan of horror films and genre films. The best horror films, at least in my opinion, are the ones that create great characters for the first hour and then deliver on the scares.

I love slow-burn storytelling when it comes to horror films. All of these things kind of came together and made me realize that this was a show that I would probably watch and something that I would want to be a part of.

I feel like there is a trend right now in dark TV, horror shows and the like. What do you attribute that to?

There's an audience for horror films, so certainly there will

be an audience, especially when well done, for horror television.

And horror films tend to do really well at the box office, because I think people want to be scared; there is something fun about sitting in a movie theatre or sitting at home with the lights out and your pulse racing and your palms sweating.

I can't think of any other type of entertainment that physically involves you and stimulates you as much as horror stuff, as genre stuff — like when you can't stand to watch the TV, when you have a tingle running up your spine.

And when you turn the episode off and you go and double-check that your front door is locked because there might be a follower outside, you know what I mean? That's the effect of entertainment.

Do you ever find yourself bringing your work home with you? Hearing bumps in the night, or getting scared when you're home alone because your mind is on the show?

No. The stuff that scares me is all supernatural stuff, ghosts, possessions. Obviously the idea of someone breaking into my house and murdering me is terrifying, but I feel like I could protect myself to a certain extent from something like that.

So, really, it's the unknown that scares me the most. It's the supernatural. The second I finished the pilot, after doing a ton of research on serial killers and stuff like that, I did install



Shawn Ashmore plays a police officer on The Following, a character this Metro writer initially found 'creepy.' CONTRIBUTED

On serial killers

"The ones that are most successful are the best manipulators, the most handsome, the best liars, the most charming, all those things."

Shawn Ashmore, who plays cop Mike Weston on The Following

an upgraded security system in my house, so I can't say that it had no effect on me, but yeah, it's not something I really get freaked out about.

Do you have a favourite serial killer now?

I won't say favourite, but I did watch a ton of documentaries on YouTube.

I spent days watching. The one serial killer that got under my skin the most was Jeffrey

Dahmer. He was just so evil. They all are. I mean if you commit those kinds of crimes... These people were committing acts that — in my mind — I can only explain as evil. But Dahmer was one that really freaked me out.

I watched an interview with him once, when he was in jail, and what was scariest about him, to me, was that he seemed very charming and

personable.

Some people have discussions about Joe Carroll (from The Following): You know, he's too handsome and blah blah blah.

Serial killers are most effective when they're charming and handsome because they're chameleons. That's why they're successful, because you don't see them coming. I mean if you see a guy that looks like a madman running around, the second you see him, your guard is up, and those are the guys that get caught right away.

I think that's why we have this fascination with serial killers: because we want to be able to stop them and see them coming. But if they're good at what they do, if they don't fit

Where to watch

Episode 2 of the second season of The Following airs Monday, Jan. 27, at 9 p.m. ET on CTV.

that profile, that's what's scary.

In the beginning of the first season, I remember thinking that your character was going to end up being one of the bad guys, because you were such a creep.

(Laughs) Did you just say creep?

Yeah. I got a really creepy vibe from your character, initially.

It boggles my mind because that was never a discussion, never a planned thing. We did the (Television Critics Association press tour) last year, which is the first time we did press and the first question anyone ever directed at me — this lady was like, "Weston is kind of this creepy character..." And I was like, "What?" I was kind of taken aback. Because we're not trying to play him creepy; never has the discussion been about that.

What I realized is how effective the pilot was. (Show creator Kevin) Williamson created this storyline and planted the seed that anyone could be a follower. And that's also when I knew this show was going to be really popular, because that means that people are turning off their TVs and creating the story afterwards.

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Grammys forecast is the usual mixed bag



Rapper LL Cool J will once again host the Grammys. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Stunning with a heavy chance of excruciating.
The awards show always throws the odd mismatch on stage

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

When the 56th annual Grammy Awards air on Sunday night, the last thing millions of viewers will be focused on is the awards themselves. What makes the Grammys are the performances. That's why in recent years they have featured fewer trophy presentations during the televised portion of the ceremony and more of their odd-ball pairings of performers. The results often vary, which is why we always tune in. Here's what to look out for on Sunday night.

LL Cool J
LL is back for his third consecutive year as the host, and if the previous years are any indication, he also swings wildly be-

tween cringe-worthy — actually saying the phrase “hash tag” in front of everybody's name he mentions like a verbal tweet — and amazing, kicking it old school at the end of last year's ceremony with Chuck D, DJ Z-Trip, Tom Morello and Travis Barker.

Pharrell Williams

The producer had his hand in two of 2013's mega hits, Robin Thicke's *Blurred Lines* and Daft Punk's *Get Lucky*, the latter of which he'll perform with everybody's favorite helmeted Frenchmen. With Nile Rodgers and Stevie Wonder also joining in this jam, you can feel it all over, especially as it's rumoured they'll go into Stevie's classic, *Sir Duke*. It will also be very surprising if you don't see Pharrell at the podium to accept an award at least once. He's nominated for seven of them!

Robin Thicke and Chicago

You guys remember Robin Thicke from the Video Music Awards? He was the one guy that Miley grinded on who wasn't dressed like a giant

stuffed animal. Anyway, he's being given another shot at awards show glory, and this time he's sharing the stage with the legendary nine-piece horn outfit Chicago.

Imagine Dragons and Kendrick Lamar

One of the worst moments in Grammy history happened in 2006, when Linkin Park, Jay Z and Paul McCartney tried to create popular mashups that featured their music.

Eight years later, hip-hop and rock fit much more naturally, so when Imagine Dragons play their Record of the Year nominee, *Radioactive* — as Kendrick Lamar raps over it with *Swimming Pool*, from his Album of the Year nominee, *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City* — it has serious potential.

Jay Z and Beyoncé

Yes, this will be beautiful, but wouldn't it be sublime if hip-hop's royal couple silently acted out a dramatic scene while Lorde performed her multiple nominee *Royals*? Think about how much “you can call me Queen Bey” would resonate.

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The story behind American Hustle

Abscam. If you want to con some corrupt politicians, you need to recruit a professional hustler of course

ELISABETH BRAW

Metro World News in New York

American Hustle, the Golden Globe-winning film and Oscar hopeful, is based loosely on Abscam, an FBI sting operation that caught public officials doing very bad things with the help of a con man Mel Weinberg.

"Weinberg, even at age 90, has a great ability to make money off people," said Robert Del Tufo, the United States Attorney who prosecuted the Abscam case.

Weinberg, who worked as consultant on American Hustle, was originally arrested by the FBI for some shady business. In order to evade a prison sentence, he agreed to cooperate with the Bureau.

"When I took over the Long Island office, I told all our agents, 'Get informants or I'll send you to New York,'" explains John Goode, the FBI agent who led Abscam.

"One of our agents had problems finding informants, so I hooked him up with Mel (Weinberg)."

That turned out to be one of the FBI's most productive partnerships ever.

"The case started when the FBI was beginning to

use undercover agents and informants in a more systematic fashion," explains Dr. John Fox, the FBI's historian. "The investigations would begin with lower-level criminals, like Mel Weinberg, to get to higher-up ones."

Weinberg and his FBI partners started by doing "small things, like stolen property", as Goode says. The agent quickly recognized Weinberg's potential, and Weinberg's shady dealings led further and further.

Along the way, Goode realized that there were plenty of corrupt politicians, not just in New Jersey but in Washington as well.

"It's unbelievable that such things were happening," Goode reflects. "But what's happening today is a hundred times worse."

In a nerve-racking act of the highest order, agents posing as Karim Abdul Rahman, a fictitious sheik, offered the lawmakers cash in return for political favours.

"Mel was a magnificent con artist," explains Goode. "He had this amazing ability to trick people."

Abscam still stands out for its audaciousness, and according to Goode, trying to ensnare crooked lawmakers is far worse than investigating organized crime: "Organized criminals are much more decent than politicians. The politicians attacked us personally, but organized criminals only attacked us on the facts."



Christian Bale's character Irving Rosenfeld, is loosely based on Mel Weinberg, a fraudster who cooperated with the FBI. CONTRIBUTED

Abscam

- **What was it?**
An FBI sting operation started in 1978 that investigated corruption of U.S. officials. The FBI used convicted con Melvin Weinberg to weed out officials.
- **How it happened.**

In order to entrap officials, the FBI formed a fake company called Abdul Enterprises Ltd. as a front for the investigation and set up videotaped meetings between a fake Arab sheik named Abdul Rahman (played by an FBI agent) and officials.

- **Result.**
The sting operation led to the conviction of a U.S. senator, six members of Congress and other officials.
- **But.**
Robert Del Tufo says many more officials could have

been brought to justice. "The investigation was not well handled, and Weinberg and (FBI agent) Amoroso were never properly supervised. Weinberg coached the targets on what they should say in front of the (hidden) camera."

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Video game review

Name. Assassin's Creed:
Liberation HDFor. PlayStation 3/Xbox
360/PC

Rated. Mature 17+



Aveline de Grandpré is a Lady Assassin of mixed race living during the New Orleans slave trade of 1765. She wears a dress and carries a poison parasol when she wants to be seen and leaps across rooftops in a tunic and arm blade when she does not. A bullwhip and a third disguise help her rescue slaves, but only as background activity to very confusing conspiracies. Glitches make it a difficult game to finish, wasting away much of the creativity that otherwise makes Aveline a thrilling heroine to play. **KRIS ABEL**

3 Songs for the weekend

**SOUND
CHECK**Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

A soul singer, a Eurovision contestant and something that is not a song (but you should check it out anyway)

**Love Me
Again/John
Newman**

Is this guy the male Amy Winehouse? I don't mean in terms of personal demons, but in the way this guy's got soul. Fantastic!

**My Lesbian
Girl/Sasha
Bognibov**

Eurovision, the continent-wide talent show, is once again underway. Sasha Bognibov, known for such songs as Do You Like My Sexy Lips, is back for another go. If The X Factor was more like this, I'd watch.

**World's longest
echo/Some oil
storage tanks in
Scotland**

Not a song, but a fascinating piece of audio nonetheless. A single blank pistol shot echoed in these storage tanks for a full one minute and 12 seconds, a new world record.

Television

**Homeland can
miss the realism
mark, ex-CIA
operative says**

Former CIA operative Valerie Plame has a mixed opinion of Showtime's spy drama Homeland.

Plame said Wednesday the Emmy Award-winning TV series is a compelling drama and that star Claire Danes is "fabulous" as a CIA operations officer.

But Plame told a TV critics' meeting it's not credible that the character's bipolar disorder would go unnoticed. She says the depiction of cellphone use inside CIA headquarters is another gaffe, since the phones are not secure and can be traced.

Plame left the CIA after her covert identity was compromised by information leaked to a newspaper columnist in 2003.

She is among those featured in the PBS documentary series Makers: Women Who Make America, airing later this year.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Good Lorde! Taylor really is BFFs with just about everyone

MELINDA
TAUB
Metro World News

Is there anyone Taylor Swift isn't BFFs with? She hangs out with everyone from sitcom stars like Sarah Hyland from *Modern Family* and to indie darlings like Lena Dunham to fellow pop stars like Selena Gomez. And now, apparently, she's added Lorde to her collection.

In a *Rolling Stone* profile, Lorde says she often texts Taylor for advice, even about something as



dovey — Lorde once told a reporter that she thought Swift was a bad influence. "Taylor Swift is so flawless, and so unattainable, and I don't think it's breeding anything good in young girls (who might think) 'I'm never going to be like Taylor Swift, why can't I be as pretty as Lorde?' That's bulls.," she said.

So how did the two end up BFFs? Because Taylor's a class act, pretty much, and sent Lorde a bouquet of roses when *Royals* hit No. 1. "I was floored," Lorde admits. Is there anyone Taylor can't win over? I really think she is laying the groundwork for a major showbiz power grab, backed by her cadre of female starlets of every stripe. And I could not love it more.

minor as which knickknack to buy for her home. "Taylor's supergood at this stuff," the *Royals* singer says. "She's decorated her own houses for ages."

The two young stars weren't always so lovey-



Mariah Carey

Mariah and hubby want to be Roc and Roe stars

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon are working on a children's book. Scholastic

announced Thursday that it has acquired the couple's Roc and Roe's Twelve Days of Christmas, a picture story scheduled for release this fall. Illustrated by A.G. Ford, the book is a holiday tale featuring twins Moroccan and Monroe, to whom Carey gave birth in 2011. Scholastic is billing the book as an "adorable" take on a famous Christmas carol.

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Though not on par with Robert Burns, Anchorman Ron Burgundy's quote, "I love scotch, scotch, scotch, scotch" is poetry to whisky lovers. Not like scotch needs celebrity endorsement. It's been rocking the spirit world for centuries with a cult of collectors who talk up their inventory numbers with the same relish that a tweeter does followers. And it continues to gain new members.

While single malts (made at a single distillery, in a pot still, from only malted barley) get attention because of big flavours, a scotch producer confessed to me that he felt "the art was really in the blend." Created from a combo of grain and malted whiskies, blends offer a rounded alternative to the aggressiveness of single malts.

Those looking for a tippie to toast Robbie Burns' 255th birthday this weekend might consider The Famous Grouse (750 ml, \$28.05 - \$29.99), the

most popular blended whisky in Scotland. Smooth and lightly malted, its blend includes heavy weight single malts, The Macallan and Highland Park.

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**TOTAL
TIME**
30 MINUTES

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snack collision: Buffalo wings and nachos

Party food. These two classics team up for big and bold flavour

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and coat with cooking spray.

2. To make the buffalo sauce, in a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the RedHot sauce, barbecue sauce and butter. Heat, stirring, until the butter is melted and thoroughly blended. Set aside.

3. Remove all of the meat from the chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces and place in a large bowl. Pour the buffalo sauce over the chicken, then toss well to coat. Set aside.

4. Spread the tortilla chips in an even layer over the prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle the cheddar cheese evenly over the chips. Using tongs or a fork, spread the chicken evenly over the cheese and chips.

5. In a small bowl, toss together the Mexican-style

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

cheese and the blue cheese, then sprinkle evenly over the chicken. Top with the olives and scallions. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and just starting to brown. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

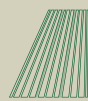
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Frank's RedHot Sauce
- 1/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2-lb rotisserie chicken
- 7 1/2 oz tortilla chips
- 8 oz each grated cheddar cheese, Mexican-style shredded cheese
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 3.8-oz can sliced black olives
- 1 bunch scallions, sliced
- Salsa, to serve
- Sour cream, to serve

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2014

AUTO PREVIEW



SUBARU, PAGE 32



KIA, PAGE 36



CHEVROLET, PAGE 40

COMBINING SAFETY AND VALUE



FORESTER — \$27,650

Through good times and bad, Subaru is a constant success story because it blends safety and value with the security of all-wheel-drive.

Yes, that sounds like a jingle, but there's no other way to explain the brand's popularity.

Up for its clockwork redesign is the Forester tall wagon. It sits on a new platform that modestly stretches the distance between the front and rear wheels for a bit more rear leg room, while a taller roofline and lower load floor add somewhat more cargo volume with the split-folding rear seat folded flat.

The carryover 2.5-litre, four-cylinder engine (installed in 2.5i models) generates 170 horsepower and 174 pound-feet of torque. For added punch, the 2.0XT uses a turbocharged version of the 2.0 that's found in the BRZ sports coupe, rated at 250 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque.

The 2.5i has a six-speed manual transmission, or a continuously variable (CVT) option. The 2.0XT only comes with the CVT, but it has what Subaru calls its "engine performance management system" with Intelligent, Sport and Sport Sharp settings.

In Sport mode, the throttle becomes more responsive and the steering-column-mounted paddle shifters mimic the action of a six-speed transmission. Throttle response is further heightened in Sport Sharp mode, but the CVT



WRX — \$34,100

provides eight "speeds" to play with. This is possible because the CVT actually has no set ratios and can be programmed to act differently at different times.

Standard on the 2.0XT and available on the 2.5i with the CVT is Subaru's X-Mode control. When activated at speeds below 20 km/h, the system adds greater control on slippery surfaces by shifting torque specifically to the wheels with grip, either front to back or side to side.

For Canada, the trim levels and names depend on the engine chosen, but all Foresters arrive reasonably well equipped. The top model is the "Limited EyeSight" that comes with a big Harman/Kardon audio package and, of course, the EyeSight collision-



TRIBECA — \$40,650

avoidance technology that, among other things, can bring the Forester to a stop if the system detects an imminent crash. For 2014, EyeSight sees more availability across the line. In the case of Legacy and Outback, it's available on more than just the top models.

Unique to the XV Crosstrek for 2014 is a hybrid version that uses the same CVT as the gasoline model only with an electric motor that's worth 13.4 horsepower and 48 pound-feet of torque. This is very much a "mild" hybrid system as the electric motor is used only when accelerating from rest. Hybrid fuel consumption is rated at 6.9 l/100 km in the city, compared with 8.2 for the gas-only model with the CVT.

— Wheelbase Media



LEGACY — \$25,150



IMPREZA SEDAN — \$21,600



OUTBACK — \$30,100

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OUTBACK: MID-SIZED WAGON — \$30,100

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WRX: COMPACT SEDAN/WAGON — \$34,100

WRX STI: COMPACT SEDAN/WAGON — \$39,800

XV CROSSTREK: COMPACT TALL WAGON — \$26,150; HYBRID — \$31,650



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LANCER — \$16,350



RVR — \$21,450

AN EYE-CATCHING MIRAGE

Mitsubishi appears to be on a bit of a comeback after paring down the lineup over the last few years. In the process of getting rid of the Galant and the Eclipse, the company has made room for some interesting new vehicles.

The new five-passenger Mirage is currently manufactured in Thailand for Mitsubishi's European and Asian markets and is larger than the Chevrolet Spark in most key exterior measurements. However, it's smaller than the Ford Fiesta, Honda Fit and Hyundai Accent hatches.

The Mirage is perched low to the ground on tiny 14-inch wheels while the rounded and somewhat stubby front gives the car a cute-in-its-own-way appearance that belies its wind-cheating (i.e., numerically very low) drag coefficient.

The interior appointments are simple, yet tasteful, with easy-to-read gauges and controls. The 60:40 split rear seat can be folded down for added stowage (although you won't get a perfectly flat load floor), but even when occupied there is reasonable space for groceries and gear.

Of course, contemplating a vehicle this small usually involves compromises and in the Mirage's case you give up room in return for good fuel economy. The car's pump-passing nature comes from a 74-horsepower, 1.2-litre three-cylinder engine mated to your choice of a five-speed manual transmission or optional continuously variable unit (CVT). The latter features Idle Neutral Logic, which automatically shifts the transmission into neutral when stopped to save fuel, then switches back into



OUTLANDER — \$27,450

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LANCER: COMPACT SEDAN — \$16,350;
EVOLUTION — \$43,350

LANCER SPORTBACK: HATCHBACK — \$21,150
MIRAGE: SUBCOMPACT SEDAN — \$13,700
OUTLANDER: MID-SIZE SUV — \$27,450
RVR: COMPACT TALL WAGON — \$21,450

drive mode when the go pedal is pushed. Mitsubishi is touting 5.3 l/100 km in the city and 4.4 highway for the CVT.

For \$13,700, including destination fees, the base ES has tilt steering, roll-up rear windows and four-speaker stereo. There are seven standard airbags, including a driver's knee inflatable.

You will need to move up to the SE and to get air conditioning, heated and folding power outside mirrors, power rear windows, heated front seats, automatic speed control and alloy wheels.

Mitsubishi includes a five-year/100,000-

kilometre bumper-to-bumper warranty, 10 years/160,000 kilometres on the powertrain and five years unlimited roadside assistance.

While the Mirage might be from Thailand, the redesigned 2014 Outlander relies on the previous model for its bones. This seven-passenger wagon has cleaned up its design act, shedding its open-mouth look in the process. Mitsubishi has upgraded the seats, door panels and dashboard (the latter with soft-touch material) and added more cabin insulation for a quieter ride. As well, the split-folding second and optional third rows have been redesigned to fold more easily.

The Outlander has managed to shed some 90 kilograms, which should help performance. The standard 2.4-litre, four-cylinder produces 166 horsepower and 162 pound-feet of torque. The four-cylinder is standard with the ES, while SE and GT S-AWC trims are fitted with a 3.0-litre V6 that delivers 224 horsepower and 215 pound-feet of torque. That's a drop of 15 horses, but it's dead even in torque.

The 2.4 is hitched to a continuously variable transmission that has been adjusted to more closely mimic a traditional multi-speed automatic, especially when accelerating from a full stop. The V6 has exclusive use of a six-speed automatic that has been updated for improved fuel economy.

On that point, the gains are nothing to sneeze at. The four-cylinder rates 8.2 l/100 km in the city and 6.3 on the highway (down from 9.0/7.0). The V6 improves to 10.1/7.1 from 10.9/7.8. Mitsubishi's "Super All-Wheel Control" (code for all-wheel drive) can be ordered with four-cylinder Outlanders, but is standard with the V6-equipped SE and GT.

With a starting price, including destination charges, of \$27,450, the Outlander arrives with the usual basic kit. The next up the SE model adds dual-zone climate control, rear-view camera, push-button start and heated front seats. The GT S entices with a premium interior, audio package and bright xenon headlamps.

Elsewhere in the line, the RVR small tall wagon receives a smoother-operating continuously variable transmission as well as more sound insulation and a few interior updates.

— Wheelbase Media



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Offers available on all new 2014 models purchased through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who purchase a new vehicle between Jan 3, 2014 and Jan 31, 2014. Dealers may sell for less, some conditions may apply. Offers are subject to change without notice, see dealer for complete details. 2014 Outlander GT model as shown has an MSRP of \$35,998.00. 2014 RVR GT as shown has an MSRP of \$28,498.00. 2014 Mirage SE has an MSRP of \$16,598.00. 2014 Lancer SE/LE has an MSRP of \$20,998.00. 2012 Lancer Evolution GSR has a MSRP of \$41,998.00. 2014 Lancer Sportback has an MSRP of \$21,198.00. 2014 Lancer Ralliart has a MSRP of \$32,398.00. These prices are excluding freight, p.d.i., all taxes, dealer fees up to \$599, registration, ppsa fees, insurance, licensing and duties on new tires. All payments are based on 96 months amortization through Bank of Montreal @ 3.99 % O.A.C. Representative examples are 2014 Outlander ES 2wd (c045-a), 2014 RVR ES 2wd (c045-a), 2014 Mirage ES (c044-a), 2014 Lancer DE (c041-am), 2014 Evolution GSR (c041-b), 2014 Lancer Sportback se man (c045-c), 2014 Ralliart base (c041-c) all payments are based on 208 bi-weekly payments of \$184.32 / \$145.55 / \$99.02 / \$113.24 / \$287.72 / \$144.26 / \$229.56, with a base price of \$25,998.00 / \$19,998.00 / \$12,798.00 / \$14,998.00 / \$19,798.00 / \$32,998.00 (excluding all freight, p.d.i., all taxes, dealer fees up to \$599, registration, ppsa fees, insurance, licensing and duties on new tires) with an all inclusive price of \$32,801.02 / \$25,901.02 / \$17,621.02 / \$20,151.02 / \$51,201.02 / \$25,671.02 / \$40,851.02 (inclusive all freight, p.d.i., fees, taxes, and transfers) For a total cost of borrowing of \$5,537.54 / \$4,373.38 / \$2,975.14 / \$3,402.90 / \$8,644.74 / \$4,335.06 / \$6,897.46 and a total obligation of \$38,338.56 / \$30,274.40 / \$20,596.16 / \$23,555.92 / \$59,845.76 / \$30,006.08 / \$47,748.48. ^Outlander lease payment is based on the ES C045-a model at 0.9% interest for 36 months with a residual value of \$11,439.12 plus taxes. ^^Out our door and in your driveway is a promotion exclusively from Metro Mitsubishi. (Terms may vary by model, see dealer for details). * Best backed claim does not cover Lancer Evolution, Lancer Ralliart or i-MiEV. © MITSUBISHI MOTORS, BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD are trade-marks of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. and are used under license. ** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify. Offers expire January 31, 2014

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS



CADENZA — \$39,100



FORTE — \$17,450



FORTE KOUP — \$20,500



OPTIMA — \$25,800

FASHIONABLY SOPHISTICATED

If change is indeed the only constant, then Kia is rock steady for 2014.

The automaker really has everything going on, from mid-cycle refreshes of the Soul, Sportage and Optima, to the more thorough makeover of the Sorento tall wagon, to the revival of the Sedona mini-van after taking a year off.

And then there are the totally new cars — a Cadenza large sedan, Rondo family wagon and the new Forte/Forte5/Koup. Let's get moving, shall we?

The Cadenza's introduction is a significant one for this Hyundai subsidiary. The brand that once sold mainly small and inexpensive cars has gradually expanded its lineup to include a variety of smartly styled vehicles that look nothing like their Hyundai counterparts.

Clearly, the Cadenza is Kia's attempt to gain favour with more mature buyers who place pampering content atop their must-have criteria. The interior design work is equally low-key, but is right in step with most luxury-oriented models. The start button fires up a 3.3-litre V6 with 293 horsepower and 255 pound-feet of torque.

Although seemingly tailored for older buyers, the car's "sport-tuned" suspension is somewhat firmer than that of some competitors. Base models pile on the goodies with a leather-fitted interior, 10-way power-adjustable driver's seat, dual-zone climate control with front- and rear-seat ventilation, navigation system with eight-inch touchscreen display, rear camera with backup warning and a 550-watt Infinity-brand sound system. Wow. Not bad for a brand that has become fashionably sophis-



RIO SEDAN — \$15,350

BASE PRICES INCLUDING DESTINATION

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CADENZA: FULL-SIZE SEDAN — \$39,100
FORTE: COMPACT SEDAN — \$17,450
FORTE KOUP: COMPACT COUPE — \$20,500
OPTIMA: MID-SIZE SEDAN — \$25,800;
\$32,000 (HYBRID)
RIO: SUBCOMPACT SEDAN — \$15,350
RIO 5-DOOR: SUBCOMPACT HATCHBACK — \$15,750
RONDO: COMPACT WAGON — \$23,400
SORENTO: MID-SIZE SPORT UTILITY — \$28,300
SOUL: COMPACT WAGON — \$18,450
SPORTAGE: COMPACT WAGON — \$23,650

ticated instead of play-it-safe conservative.

That's even more apparent when it comes to the Forte5 hatch that followed the sedan's 2013 calendar-year launch by a few months. Dialed back somewhat, though, is the Forte's power. The new base 1.8-litre engine pumps out 148 horsepower and 131 pound-feet of torque, while the optional 2.0-litre four-cylinder produces 173/154.

For Forte5 buyers, the 2.0 is standard while a turbocharged 1.6-litre four-cylinder is optional. It spools out 201 horsepower and 195 pound-feet of torque. A six-speed manual transmission, or optional six-speed automatic, can be connected to all three powerplants.

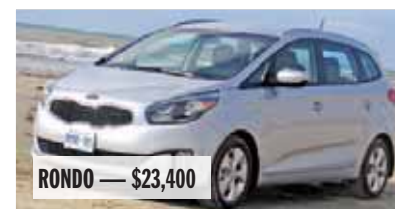
We didn't lump in the Forte Koup here because it really deserves some extra ink. The 2014 redesign really brings the Koup into its own, even though it continues to be based on the Forte sedan's platform. What makes a big difference this time around is the car's more aggressive — and downright attractive — front- and rear-end styling, including a set of massive headlight pods, that sets it apart from its Forte sedan and Forte5 hatchback siblings.

For more room — family room — there aren't many compact wagons that can get away with packaging three rows of seats that real people can actually sit in.

The original Rondo was a decent competitor, but the new version is better looking, more functional and does more with a litre of gasoline. Called the Carens elsewhere in Kia's vast distribution universe, the Rondo is exclusive to the Canadian market.

It's hard to fathom why not since it has a lot to offer, starting with a well-planned interior, that, when not transporting people around, can be converted to a workhorse of cargo carrier. The second row is a tri-folding unit, while the optional third row is a 50:50 bench. Both rows fold as flat as a bowling lane and offer an impressive variety of people and cargo permutations.

— Wheelbase Media



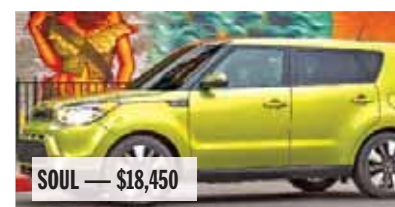
RONDO — \$23,400



SEDONA — \$28,700



SORENTO — \$28,300



SOUL — \$18,450



SPORTAGE — \$23,650

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NEW DESIGN ADDS SOME DRAMA

Let's say you're in charge of designing a new Corolla and you mess it up. Where are you going to work on Monday? Moreover, would you ever get another job, ever again?

Yes, there is loads of pressure when it comes to a million-seller Toyota Corolla because, for a smaller car, it has some big numbers to brag about. Like the fact that in 47 years Toyota has sold more than 40 million of them and currently operates 16 factories worldwide that ship Corollas to 154 countries.

The all-new 11th-generation North American version comes on strong with a bit more style — especially from the windshield forward — than its broad base of customers are used to seeing. Nothing too radical, mind you, but just enough design drama to create some politely muffled ooh's and ah's.

Where the new Corolla shines, however, is in passenger accommodations and comfort. The car has grown about four inches in overall length and in distance between the front and rear wheels. In addition, a slightly wider cabin also contributes to more passenger space. Interior styling has also improved, but in a conservative way that differs from more daring competitors.

Likewise, engine choices eschew anything performance-related. A 132-horsepower, four-cylinder carries over from the previous generation and is connected to a six-speed manual transmission for the base CE and the S. A four-speed automatic transmission is optional on the CE, while a new continuously variable unit (CVT) is optional for S and standard for LE and LE ECO.

To reduce that "rubber-band" sensation of varying engine speed that's prevalent with many CVT applications, Toyota's engineers added seven artificial shift points that function automatically (or can be controlled through available steering-column-mounted paddle shifters) to simulate the action of a regular automatic transmission.

The LE ECO is also equipped with a 140-horsepower version of the 1.8 that's rated at 6.5 l/100 km on the highway and 4.6 in the city, compared to the base model's 6.9/5.2 rating with the CVT.

Aside from a more efficient engine with special variable valve timing, those figures are achieved with the help of underbody panels that improve the car's aerodynamics (and reduce highway-speed fuel consumption).

As before, entry-level Corollas don't come with air conditioning; that's saved for the LE and the S. The LE ECO gets climate



COROLLA — \$17,600



PRIUS — \$27,700



CAMRY — \$25,300



VENZA — \$30,300

BASE PRICES (INCLUDING DESTINATION)

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AVALON: FULL-SIZED SEDAN — \$37,600
CAMRY: MID-SIZED SEDAN — \$25,300;
HYBRID — \$29,350
COROLLA: COMPACT SEDAN — \$17,600
MATRIX: COMPACT WAGON — \$18,400

PRIUS: COMPACT SEDAN — \$27,700
PRIUS PLUG-IN: COMPACT SEDAN — \$37,300
PRIUS C: COMPACT HATCHBACK — \$22,000
SIENNA: MINIVAN — \$30,750
VENZA: MID-SIZED WAGON — \$30,300
YARIS: COMPACT HATCHBACK/SEDAN — \$15,900



SIENNA — \$30,750



MATRIX — \$18,400



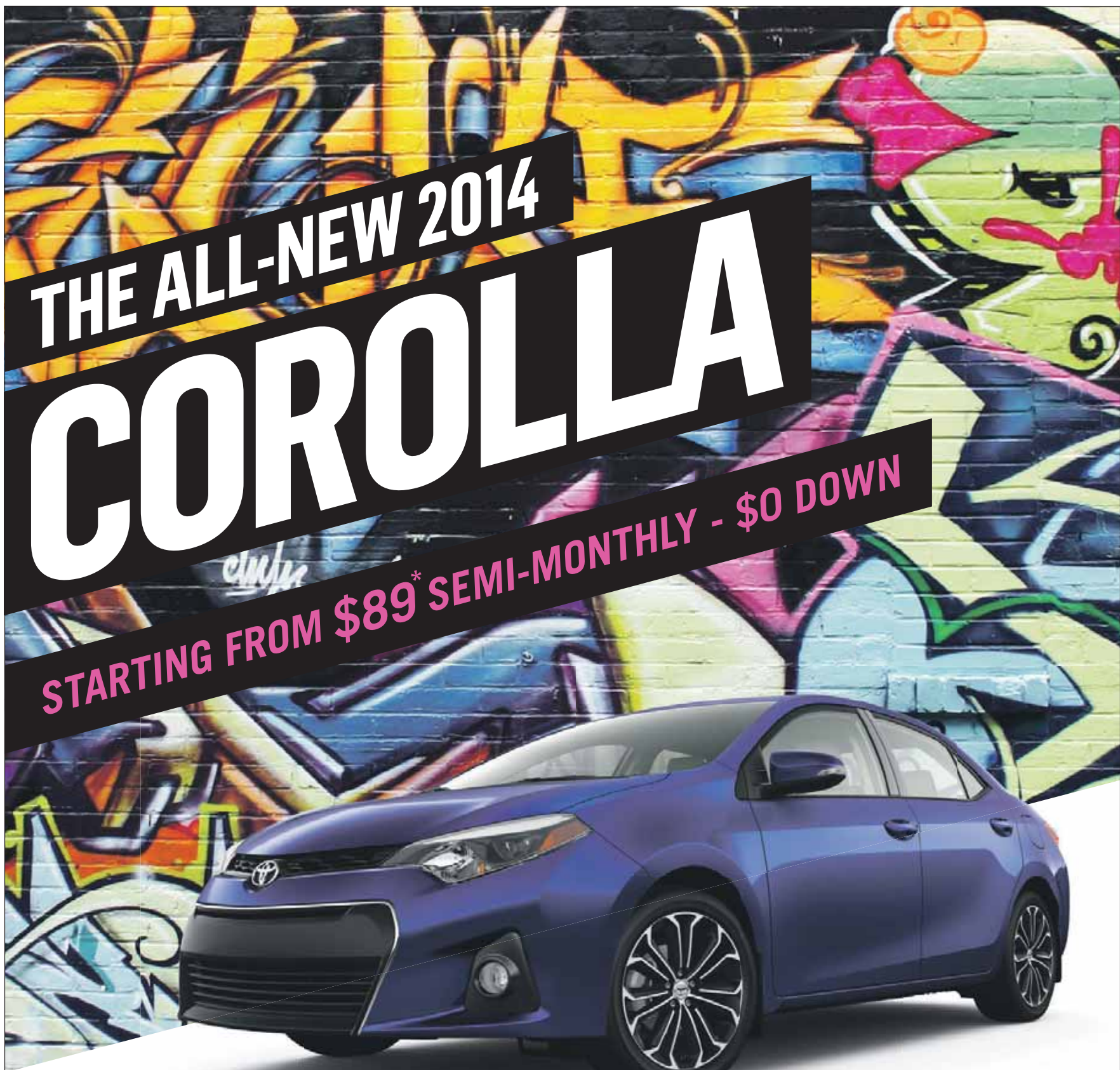
AVALON — \$37,600

control. All models comes with steel wheels as standard, with aluminum wheels available only as an option.

Changes in the rest of the car line

are fairly minor. Avalon is still blushing from compliments over the 2013 full-on redesign. The styling alone actually looks more youthful than the Camry from which

it was spawned. Its crisp lines reflect the car's slightly more diminutive dimensions — six centimetres shorter a bit narrower and not quite as tall — than the outgoing model. The Avalon also weighs about 55 kilograms pounds less than the old 2012 model as a result. Unchanged is the 268-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6, although Toyota tweaked the engine and installed an updated six-speed transaxle for improved fuel economy (9.9 city/6.4 highway versus 12.0/7.8). — *Wheelbase Media*



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SILVERADO — \$27,900

THE CHEVROLET SILVERADO FEATURES MORE POWERFUL AND EFFICIENT ENGINES

With a new 2014 Chevrolet Silverado upon us, you just know that a new Tahoe and Suburban are not far behind. In fact, they're coming for the 2015 model year and will be sleeker and lighter than before.

Also in the works for 2015 is a new small-truck replacement for the Chevy Colorado that departed the lineup at the end of the 2012 model year.

So here's the truck that got the ball rolling. With the all-new Silverado 1500-series, Chevrolet appears to have done its homework and paid close attention to what buyers are looking for to haul and tow their stuff. It looks familiar, but there are more powerful/efficient engines as well as improvements in nearly every other area. In front, the twin-stacked headlights remain, but the grille is now much more prominent and tougher looking.

Behind the tailgate, the handy "Corner Step" bumper has recessed footholds that, combined with built-in handholds inside the box, make accessing the bed much easier. The doors are now "inlaid" into the body, which cuts wind noise at highway speeds.

Inside, the dashboard and control panel that houses the optional eight-inch touch screen are positioned in a tidy pod for easy viewing and all of the oversized knobs and switches are work-glove-



SILVERADO HD — \$39,200

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SILVERADO: FULL-SIZE PICKUP — \$27,900

SILVERADO HD: FULL-SIZE PICKUP — \$39,200

SUBURBAN: FULL-SIZE SUV — \$56,000

TAHOE: FULL-SIZE SUV — \$53,300

TRAVERSE: FULL-SIZED SUV — \$34,600

TRAX: COMPACT TALL WAGON — \$20,000

friendly and clearly marked.

All body styles — regular, extended Double Cab (now featuring front-hinged rear doors with outside handles) and four-door Crew Cab — are attached to reworked frames with more high-strength steel, extra bracing for stiffness and improved body mounts that help isolate road noise and vibration.

For 2014, you can order the Crew Cab with a longer 80-inch bed (the standard bed is 68 inches) version and you will get a choice of three new all-aluminum engines. The entry point is a 4.3-litre V6 that has the same displacement as the previous V6, but output has significantly increased to 285 horsepower and 305 pound-feet of torque from 195/260. Optional is a

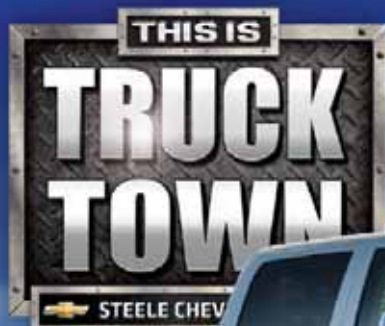
5.3-litre V8 with 355 horses and 383 pound-feet, up from 315/335.

Later in the model year, they will be joined by an available 6.2-litre V8 rated at 420 horsepower and 440 pound-feet of torque, which shares its parts with the new Corvette V8. All three power plants feature direct fuel injection, which tailors the fuel load for the task at hand. They also have continuously variable valve timing (which allows in more fuel and air depending in the power needs) and cylinder deactivation that cuts off up to half the cylinders in light load and cruise situations. The model range also extends to include a new premium "High Country" model to appeal to wealthy ranchers and city slickers.

The best part about this truck is its highly optioned leather interior that places it above the previous top-of-the-line LTZ. New safety technology is aimed at keeping you out of a crash and not just protecting you in the event of a crash. There's optional blind-spot alert, rear cross traffic alert and both forward collision alert and lane-departure warning.

The 2014 Traverse also gets this tech, but adds a very cool front centre airbag that's designed to keep front occupants from colliding during a side impact.

— Wheelbase Media



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FUTURE IS NOW

VOLKSWAGEN IS PUTTING A CHARGE INTO ITS LINEUP

Several companies out there think that turbocharging is the way of the future. Volkswagen has gone so far as to say that at some point all its engines will be turbocharged. Totally turbo, as it were.

Turbocharging allows engines to be really small, which gives them good fuel economy, and when you need some extra acceleration, the turbocharger adds the power.

How soon is “the future?” How about now.

VW has begun to phase out its non-turbocharged 2.5-cylinder engine in favour of a 1.8-litre turbocharged four-cylinder. Even a big car like the Passat gets it for 2014, where it makes the same power as the old 2.5 but manages to pull down about 10 per cent better fuel consumption. The 2.5 will continue to be offered while full production of the 1.8 ramps up.

That’s a nice little bump in fuel economy, but one of the best bets is still the hybrid-challenging 140-horsepower 2.0-litre turbo-diesel (TDI) that gives the mid-size Passat a rating 6.8 l/100 km in the city and 4.4 on the highway, along with a range approaching 1,300 kilometres.

The Golf doesn’t get the new turbo engine and for good reason as customers are patiently awaiting the arrival of the seventh-generation model that the European market has had access to for some time. The all-new hatchback that’s due in early 2014 will be built in Mexico instead of Germany and promises to be both roomier and more fuel-efficient.

In the meantime, VW is clearing out remaining Golfs. Best of luck finding a hotrod GTI or R model because the focus is closing out the current line with a four-door Wolfsburg edition. Here you have your choice of a base 170-horsepower, 2.5-litre five-cylinder engine or the optional 140-horsepower 2.0-litre turbo-diesel that’s good for 4.6 l/100 km on the highway and 6.7 in the city, which is about 35 per cent better than the base 2.5.

A five-speed manual transmission is



PASSAT — \$25,400



GOLF COMPACT HATCHBACK — \$25,400

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CURRENT PRICES IN YOUR AREA.

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BEETLE: COMPACT CONVERTIBLE — \$30,300
CC: MID-SIZED SEDAN — \$36,500
EOS: COMPACT CONVERTIBLE — \$41,300

GOLF: COMPACT HATCHBACK — \$25,400
GOLF WAGON: COMPACT WAGON — \$25,000
JETTA: COMPACT SEDAN — \$16,400; HYBRID — \$29,300
PASSAT: MID-SIZED SEDAN — \$25,400
TIGUAN: COMPACT SUV — \$26,400
TOUAREG: MID-SIZE SUV — \$51,100



TIGUAN — \$26,400

assigned to the 2.5, which can be swapped out for a six-speed automatic with manual-shift control.

Wait a second, doesn’t VW sell a hybrid? Glad you asked. The impressive Jetta Hybrid is uniquely teamed with a seven-speed automated manual gearbox (called the DSG). The hybrid can run for 1.9 kilometres on electricity alone at speeds up to 70 km/h and accelerate to 60 mph (96

km/h) from rest in less than nine seconds.

For 2014, all Jettas receive a more performance-oriented multi-link rear suspension that previously was exclusive to the Jetta GLI (think of VW Golf-based GTI with a trunk instead of a rear hatch). The multi-link probably won’t be noticed by most Jetta drivers, but anyone who loves to carve through twisty two-lane back roads should feel the difference in the car’s handling dynamics.

In other news, the Tiguan compact tall wagon comes in a new R-Line that sits atop the pecking order with unique 19-inch wheels, sport suspension, power front seats with lumbar support, rain-sensing wipers and other fancy stuff.

The Beetle is another model that will



BEETLE — \$23,600



CC — \$36,500



EOS — \$41,300



JETTA — \$16,400

surrender its 2.5-litre five-cylinder, but there will also be a limited run of 3,500 GSR models for all of North America, kitted out with special yellow and black paint, large rear spoiler and 19-inch wheels. Matching yellow and black leather-covered seats will also be part of the package.

—Wheelbase Media

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Philippe Gadoury has seven points in six games with the Mooseheads so far this season. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Gadoury proving he belongs on top line

QMJHL. Newcomer to Herd has made a seamless jump to the major-junior ranks



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

None of Philippe Gadoury's four goals stand as his favourite moment in his six games with the Halifax Mooseheads.

When posed the question, the seemingly unassuming 19-year-old smiles, thinking back to one shift in last Sunday's game against the Acadie-Bathurst Titan, where for the

fourth straight game he was playing on the team's top line with Jonathan Drouin and Darcy Ashley.

"We didn't score but we stayed in the offensive zone for about a minute or a minute and a half," said Gadoury. "We were passing back and forth, great passes to one another and we got some shots. But it was a great shift because it was so much fun."

Just over two weeks ago Gadoury was playing junior A, leading the Nepean Raiders in scoring. Now, he finds himself on one of the elite teams in the QMJHL, playing alongside the CHL's player of the year.

His four goals and three assists in a half-dozen games says

Hockey night in Halifax

The Mooseheads will look to extend their five-game winning streak on Friday at home against the Chicoutimi Saguenéens.

a lot about his talent, his ability to adapt. He's fully aware of his good fortune, giving up an NCAA scholarship to play for Northeastern University.

"I've been really lucky, I know that. What Halifax was offering, I couldn't say no."

There's a lot to like about Gadoury's game, says Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. Beyond appreci-

ating his speed, vision and tenacity, Ducharme likes the simplicity of the young man's game.

"He's simple to play with," said Ducharme. "He makes simple plays; he's there. He moves the puck well; he's not all over the place; he's close to the puck, you don't need to look for him."

Since Gadoury joined the Mooseheads they've won five of six games. He realizes the opportunity before him.

"We have a lot of depth," said Gadoury. "We have the best goalie in Canada. We have great defence. Our offence is really good too, guys that really know how to put the puck in the net."

NBL Canada

Rainmen fall to Mill Rats, winning streak snapped

Say goodbye to the Halifax Rainmen's winning streak.

They can thank a third-quarter collapse that led to a 108-98 defeat to the Saint John Mill Rats at Harbour Station on Thursday night.

"We weren't ready to play from the start," said head coach Craig Hodges. "We showed some life in the first half but the fact is we weren't ready to play basketball."

Going into the second half, the Rainmen trailed by a bucket. But the home squad poured it on, outscoring Halifax 35-14 in the third quarter. The Rainmen fought hard down the stretch but couldn't close the gap.

"You have a chance to build on something, make some things happen but we didn't do it," added Hodges.

"Hopefully, we learned a lesson that we have to be prepared to play basketball. Now I have to make sure we're prepared for the next game."

Mill Rats guard Raheem Singleton led all scorers with 23 points, while Olumuyiwa Famutimi and Tim Parham paced the Rainmen with 14 points.

The Rainmen host the Moncton Miracles at home on Sunday.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

NHL

Pens re-assign Sill to AHL affiliate

Zach Sill was re-assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton of the American Hockey League on Thursday.

Sill, a native of Birch Hill, near Brookfield, played in 20 NHL games this season with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The 25-year-old centre was a healthy scratch for the Penguins in Wednesday's game against the Montreal Canadiens with forwards Chuck Kobasew and James Neal healthy and back in the lineup.

Sill was averaging 10:48 minutes of ice time. He had no points and 12 penalty minutes.

Although Sill made a limited impact offensively during his time with the big club, he did play an important role on the Pens' No. 1-ranked penalty kill, averaging 1:54 of shorthanded minutes per game. **METRO**

Mooseheads netminder reflects on making history



Mooseheads goalie Zach Fucale

METRO FILE

Zach Fucale enters every game without fear.

That's because the Halifax Mooseheads netminder believes he's done everything in his power to be prepared to win.

That, and possessing lots of talent, begins to explain his latest achievement on Tuesday night, breaking a 35-year-old Quebec Major Junior Hockey League record by nailing down 100 wins in less than 150 games.

Accomplishing the feat in

just 145 games, the 18-year-old eclipsed Jacques Cloutier's 1979 feat of 100 wins in 150 games.

"Every game of the year, you look at it like it's the last game of the year, it's for a championship, as if it's the most important game you're ever going to play," Fucale said.

But whatever praise he gets, he's quick to deflect it.

"To get one win takes a lot," Fucale said. "I've been fortunate to play with very good teams for the past three years. It's good

for the players, coaches and the organization and myself."

The record is a product of Fucale's endless desire to improve and to realize his full potential.

"We all want to get to the next level," said the Montreal Canadiens' second-round draft pick. "If you're not always trying to be your best and you don't do the little details others don't do, then you won't get better. That goes for the team and myself."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



Hockey star Hayley Wickenheiser will lead the Canadian Olympic team into the opening ceremonies in Sochi. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey star embraces role of flag-bearer

Opening ceremony. Wickenheiser shoots down thought of added pressure that comes along with leading country into Games

Hayley Wickenheiser doesn't put much stock in the flag-bearer's curse.

The hockey star, who will carry the Maple Leaf into the opening ceremonies of the Sochi Olympics, says the idea that she and her teammates could be under any more pressure is absurd.

After all, they play a sport that many in Canada consider religion. So any sort of cosmic jinx pales in comparison to the weight of an entire country's expectations for the women's team to win a fourth straight gold medal in Sochi.

"I think there's just too much emphasis put on that," Wickenheiser said Thursday

via conference call from Austria. "The country expects a gold medal. Whether I carry the flag or not, I'm pretty sure our team doesn't feel any extra added incentive that there's more pressure to perform, because we already feel that already."

Not all athletes see it that way. Diver Alexandre Despatie felt it would be a distraction and said he'd decline any offer to carry the flag at the 2012 London Games.

Kayaker Adam van Koeverden carried the flag at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and finished a disappointing eighth in the 1,000 metres — although he did win silver in the 500.

Moguls skier Jean-Luc Brassard blamed his disappointing performance at the 1998 Nagano Olympics on being the flag-bearer a day earlier.

Hockey Canada says the women will march in the Feb. 7 opening ceremonies despite playing their first game the following night versus Switzerland. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Great White hopes

"The pressure that we feel is the pressure that always comes with playing hockey as a Canadian hockey player, whether you're male or female."

Canadian hockey star Hayley Wickenheiser

NHL

Maple Leafs suffer Texas-sized loss to end winning streak

Valeri Nichushkin scored two goals to lead the Dallas Stars to a 7-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Tuesday.

Jamie Benn had his 100th career goal and three assists for Dallas, which broke open a 2-1 lead with four second-period goals and ended Toronto's

six-game winning streak.

Cody Eakin added a goal and an assist, and Alex Goligoski, Sergei Gonchar and Tyler Seguin each had two assists for the Stars, who won their second game in a row since ending a 1-8-1 slide. Kari Lehtonen made 24 saves.

Nikolai Kulemin had the lone goal for Toronto.

Toronto coach Randy Carlyle replaced starting goalie Jonathan Bernier with James Reimer, who allowed the final four goals. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



The Maple Leafs' Nazem Kadri and Jamie Benn of the Stars battle for the puck in Dallas on Thursday night. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

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